

SEVEN DAYS

FREE



DOUBLE ISSUE

2016

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR!



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BESTS AND BUMMERS

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A bumpy year in Vermont food



GOOD, BAD, WHATEVER

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Harrison and Kisenak rate the movies

Happy New Year

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for the nation's
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TIME

The Broadway musical based on Vermont cartoonist Alice Duchédel's graphic novel *Pam Mayo was Five* (Tongue and Pen) opens on BOLD New Year's eve on stage.



GOVERNMENT

In June, Gov. Peter Schwarzenegger announced he would marry again; then, six months later, married his 21-year-old girlfriend on a Thursday night. Way to go... home.

THE LAST
SEVEN DAYS

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

Turning the Page on 2015

The best Seven Days stories are glibly funny and/or moving—or in some cases, all of those things. We like to ask questions that others won't or don't. Such as, 'Who's got the best Bernie Sanders imitation?' Some guy from Maine is it turns out.

In 2016—the year that *Seven Days* turned 20—we covered the big stories—the arrest of Sen. Norm McMillan for the Gannettville prison break, the IBM sale—but also found a fable in the tiny Northeast Kingdom town of Victory: a Williston farm that once



ONE THAT LED TO ACTING In his Fair Game column, political editor Paul Hentz questions Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell's compliance with campaign-finance laws and his cozy relationships with donors. That prompted a state-university oversight board. Meanwhile, Sorrell is mulling the work run again.

STORY THAT YOU REPORTED FOR US: More than 2,000 people took our detailed *Week in Survey* revealing that the state's stores tend to buy young, uneducated farmers. They've satisfied their mania by pill everything from deer hearts to chocolate-covered lard.



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crickets, and a Somali refugee whose isolation and unrelenting mental illness drive him to suicide.

In hot pursuit of the "Born" we followed Vermont's presidential candidate to Iowa, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and South Carolina. We also begged along with bail bond agents, game wardens, the border patrol and people who work the late, late shift.

Here are some standout stories from our pages the past year — all of which you can find in the archives at spectrum.sfn.org.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO THE STYLE GUIDE Tess Hollenbeck's story about Vermont's Stone Cooper led to a humiliating CEO inspired dress-up on-air gaffe and H&M's efforts to shut it. The premiums were lucky, too. The jinx is still out, so whether we'll adopt 'in' or the opposite. They

MOST SACRIFICIAL

SUBJECT MATTER: Reviewing five years of state records. The review

Flagg found that plants of Vermont ferns get fixed for winter quality relations, from mineral dairy. Peter's Greens rely on this way.

ROCKY ROUND THE CLOCK: Dan Barker covered the year's musical milestones — 243 Main turned 30 and Mectar's turned 42 — and Joe Green Peckler's unofficial breakfast club. She answered all of his questions and made her first quiz.



TOP TEN

FRANK J. SUTHERLAND JR.

- 1 "Ten Glorious Days of Summer Research in the UW-Madison Special Archives" by Paul Hertz. The Benson Research Archive at the University of Wisconsin is now accepting applications for a summer of wonderful research time. Right now, the Benson Research Archive is accepting applications for the summer of 1995.
- 2 "Miss Wisconsin is a Schindler Boy" by John J. Carr. At this year's Miss America pageant, Miss Wisconsin showed the judges with her Schindler Boy. She was the first of a long line of winners singing about the Schindler family's courage and sacrifice.
- 3 "Last Days & Future Wisconsin Resources: The Third Wisconsin to End the Life of the Wisconsin People" by Tom Hertz. After a long and hard life, the Wisconsin people are at the end of their lives. Wisconsin is a state that has been extremely difficult to live in and the state is now.
- 4 "The Second Wisconsin: Wisconsin's Second Wisconsin" by John J. Carr. During the second of the Wisconsin's Wisconsin people, the Wisconsin people are at the end of their lives. Wisconsin is a state that has been extremely difficult to live in and the state is now.
- 5 "How to Answer Your Future Questions" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.
- 6 "Answer Management: A Simple Guide for Employees" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.
- 7 "Wisconsin's 1995 is Going to be a Big Year" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.
- 8 "Final Day of Wisconsin's 1995" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.
- 9 "Why Are We Wisconsin Wisconsin's 1995?" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.
- 10 "Wisconsin's 1995: A Book of Wisconsin's 1995" by John J. Carr. This is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people. It is a book that will help you answer your future questions about the Wisconsin people.

10/20/2010 10:20:13 AM

11-11-11

1. **Abstract**

2015

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>1. New Dawn filed its comments on <i>One Dawn Leads Strife</i> by Rick Henderson. Tamm told Henderson: "The most sensitive Americans on Taiwan, according to a survey of Taiwan from all 50 states."</p> | <p>2. Senior Executive Director Marguerite Legault told Bill O'Reilly: "I tell Sen. Joe Biden White House in February to inquire in January."</p> | <p>3. Senators filed their comments on <i>After Seven Decades in Burlington</i> by Mark Davis. The Italian ministry closed the cases in December to focus on training and worldwide operations.</p> | <p>4. Mr. James told his assistant <i>John</i> "Mr. James" by <i>Harvard Professor</i> (Egon). The Italian minister closed the cases in December to focus on training and worldwide operations.</p> | <p>5. Black Political Leaders on <i>Black</i> Leaders in <i>South Carolina</i> by Paul Davis. A group of black and red leaders are community activists across the presidential administration from the same militant state in the south.</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|

study Matt Simon of the Marijuana Policy Project characterized it as the "misleading" work of anti-regulation activists.

LAND GRABS

The thought of 700-plus units going into the Burlington College building has obviously touched a pretty raw nerve with a lot of city residents, including one 100 Message "Agreement Reached for Former Burlington College Property," December 3, Off Message "Residents Pickles Large Apartment Building in Old North End," October 29. I would hope that the Development Review Board, being the final possible hope, would either decline Eric Farrell's proposal or at least severely curtail it. (And now, another not-needed redevelopment at the foot of North Street? I would hope that this one gets the boot immediately.)

When does the abhorring of housing take away space piece of open land and become a sin? This town is far from the Burlington I grew up in, all due to encroaching, oversized roads and infrastructure, and the folks believe that we have to provide housing (cheap or otherwise) to everybody who sets foot here. At least, that's what the developers would like us to believe, when in fact, they are only out for as much money they can take it. I know it. Please, make it stop, before it's too late.

David Parker
BURLINGTON

LITTLE HOUSES, BIG CHANGES

[WTF "They in the City," December 16, [WTF "What's With All the Tiny Houses in Burlington?," May 6.] I remember seeing that North Avenue building as a store when I was young. Perhaps you didn't know the street the street in the south corner of the Star Press building was a very tiny store, as well. Someone told me that the mother of the Star Press owner ran it. After the store closed permanently, I used to peek in the window at the candy bar, which wasn't removed for years following the closure [WTF "What Goes On in the Dusty Old Star Press on North Avenue?," September 28, 2011]. Interesting story, indeed, for those of us old enough to remember what Sharr's great descriptions of the track,

Bill Quinlan
BURLINGTON

HAPPY OFF TRAIL!

I loved Ethan de Sarff's most recent article about the late Bill Naturali aka "Miguel Perez," December 30, with photos by Tretta Van Duzee. It's a pleasure to read Ethan's great descriptions of the track,

the landscape and the natural history of the area. His writing transported me out there, walking in the woods instead of sitting inside at home on a dark, snowless morning. Looking forward to more in the "Off Trail" series.

Sally Cook
BURLINGTON

CARBON CONTORTIONISTS

[Re Off Message "GOP Wants to Stop Carbon Tax, Which Isn't Moving," October 30.] The chair of the Vermont Republican Party David Sunderland, as it again, claiming that Democrats are pushing an \$648 tax on working Vermonters. This is absolutely untrue. That is a proposal, a part of a bill, one of 800, that has been introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives. Far from being "fanned," it's been never seen the light of day, there would need to be assurances that working Vermonters would not be hurt, that there would be a long-term, phased-in approach. And it would have to involve a multi-step approach.

This is Sunderland using scare tactics to try to shut down debate on climate change. He has said "there's science on both sides of the issue." He knows, and 90 percent of Vermonters know, that there is no credible scientific denying climate change. He is trying, over us, gingerly to back off his and the Republican Party's increasingly absurd and indefensible denial. This strategy has a name. It's called "redwing back."

If climate change wasn't as important and urgent, it would be very entertaining to watch the climate-change deniers court themselves into impossible positions. It reminds me of the game Twister — a bunch of kids contorting their bodies into hilarious positions. But climate change isn't a children's game. If it were, Sunderland would be winning.

Bill Koch
SHEFFIELD, VT

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93 93rd anniversary

94 94th anniversary

95 95th anniversary

96 96th anniversary

97 97th anniversary

98 98th anniversary

99 99th anniversary

100 100th anniversary

VIDEO SERIES



Under the



Stuck in Vermont: This is the story of a
man who is stuck in Vermont — and how he
stays stuck in Vermont, over the
years.

Dropping the Ball?

Celebrating New Years Eve the Y2K way

BY PAULA BRITLY

The pressure has never been greater
to make it to midnight — if for no other
reason than to count yourself among the
millennium masses when the great
celebration in the sky turns to 2-0-0-0.
Like missing Woodstock, it will be hard to
explain to future generations how — and
why — you slept through Y2K eve. Or,
depending on how things go, what you did
to prepare for it.

Here's what some
reasonable Vermonters
are doing — or not.

Judge F. Ray Keyser, Chelton, retired
Vermont Supreme Court judge
"I plan to stay up until 12 because, if I
make it that far, I will have lived in three
centuries. Not three generations — three
centuries."

Yolanda Burlington
dog queen

"I am going to be running
through the streets with
a dog-on-a-leash in
Memorial."

Jessica Dole, Burlington,
assistant city attorney

"A lot of people I know are going to
Florida, but I'm supposed to be present
at the Burlington Emergency Operations
Center, located at the Burlington
Police Station, in the event of any Y2K
emergency."



20/20

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the MAGNIFICENT 7

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THURSDAY 31

PARTY TIME

1 There is no shortage of revelry during **Montpelier's New Year's Eve Celebration**. Before settling in on the statehouse lawn for a festive fireworks show, families can catch Marka the Mayan performing inspiring fables of illusion and hypnosis. The fire-smoking caribou eat at city hall with a blues-fueled bash hosted by poetist Dave Kuller (pictured). Let the countdown begin!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

3

SUNDAY 3

View From the Top

Team with a magazine, because, shown as part of the Middlebury News/Observer's Festival Winter Screening Series, the 2012 documentary **How to Harvest** shows us a day in the field in front of the sun on their journey up the seemingly insurmountable Mount Mans. Viewers watch what's ahead as the children take the massive task of making bucking personal challenges along the way.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

4

FRIDAY 1

The Great Outdoors

Nature seems made for 2012 with **First Day Hikes**, Vermont State Parks exciting winter visitors of all ages for a variety of frosty-friendly excursions ranging from easy to strenuous. Need a little ice cream? This one comes complete with optional chocolate-dipped ice cream and snow-covered ice creamers. The snowdust has a lot of snow cream to satisfy that New Year's resolution!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

5

WEDNESDAY 6

Stanza and Deliver

Rhyme and meter and beats and before you go, going, ending by the New York Times best-selling writer **Mark Doty** at Queens College, former United States poet laureate Philip Levine describes the 2008 Pulitzer Book Award winner as "a book of big, noisy, bustling poems, at which ordinary human experience becomes music." Doty shares his gift for verse through selections from his 2010 collection *Along Came*.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

6

THURSDAY 31

Rhythm of the Night

Sparkling Champagne, honky-tonk music and doled up this thing — what more could one want at a good old-fashioned Vermont Showcase Lounge event? **Pop-Up New Querrers Eve Dance Party** on 18 and up events propelled by hot hip-hop, electronic pop and built down to bluesy country balladryers over 21. Here to 2014!

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 32

7

OPENING THURSDAY 7

Photographic Evidence

Urban landscapes meet the Green Mountain State in a way of photography and visual media poems by artists Tom Collins and Kelly Hill. Architects, photographers, artists, and street art, artists like a traditional **"Vermonters"** opening January 7 in River Arts in Montpelier. A reception and artist talk with artist Kelly Hill on January 7.

SEE ART LISTING ON PAGE 71

WEDNESDAY 18

World Music

2 Of the Ukrainian musical quartet **Okazhivka**, National Public Radio says, "from the first minute of the group's performance, it's hard not to get caught up in the magic it weaves." Armed with accordion, reeds, penmanship, Balkan-style vocals and the occasional folk tale, the group plays out an array based on the traditional sounds of their native country. Sounds like magic indeed!

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32



The Politics of 2015

Last December, shortly before the end-of-year calendar went to press, we had to make a significant last-minute edit. A few hours earlier, Gov. **PETER SHUMLIN** dropped the biggest news of the year: He was abandoning his long-proposed plan to build a single-payer-style health care system in Vermont.

That decision, in many ways, drove the politics of 2015.

Having alienated Democrats, Progressives and Republicans, Shumlin limped through his 60th legislative session and, shortly after it concluded, announced he would not seek a fourth term. The impending retirement launched a cascading series of open political contests—for governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker and the legislature.

That would've been enough to keep any political columnist busy. But 2015 was also the year in which a state senator was arrested for sexual assault on the grounds of the Statehouse. And the governor appointed independent counsel to investigate alleged wrongdoing by the attorney general.

Even those weren't the biggest stories of the year. This was After liberating an elusive obscurity for nearly 45 years, Vermont's own **MAKING CANDIDATE** became a national phenomenon. And the popular alternative to **WILLIAM CLINTON** in the Democratic presidential primary.

It was the year of Bernie Manos.

Win or lose, Sanders has established himself as a progressive icon and leader of the left. Like former governor **NORMAN BUSH**, he has put Burlington on the political map and brought a uniquely Vermont sensibility to the presidential election.

So what else happened? Here's our list of the top 30 political stories of 2015, in loose chronological order.

Welcome Back!

After the legislature gavelled into session last January its first job was to settle the contentious 2014 election. Republican **SCOTT MAHONEY** had fallen short of Shumlin by 2,434 votes, but instead of conceding the race, he made the unusual decision to contest it before a joint session of the legislature. (It's tedious with picking a guy if nobody wins an outright majority.)

In the end, legislators split roughly along party lines, with 100 supporting Shumlin and 69 backing Mahoney.

The reticent incumbent didn't get a chance to celebrate. Later that afternoon, some 250 activists stormed Shumlin's third inauguration, demanding hearings on his abandoned single-payer plan. They

sang songs, unfurled banners and staged a sit-in on the House floor.

By the time the last protester was dragged out of the Statehouse and arrested, Shumlin's big day felt like a bust.

Ed Talks

Legislators had failed to address rising property taxes during the 2014 session—and paid the price at the polls that November. So they returned to Montpelier in January 2015 with a pledge to tackle the perennial problem.

To easing the charge was House Speaker **SHAP SMITH** (D-Morrisville), who assembled a special committee to explore the growth of education spending as enrollment continued to drop.

After months of debate, legislators adopted a school provisions reform bill that would provide the state's 277 enveloping districts carrots and sticks to bring total state larger ones by 2019. Some critics struggled at it as a nothing-burger, while others characterized it as the end of local control.

By fall, Act 46 had become a potent political issue. School board members were particularly concerned that their budgets would blow through the new law's variable cap on per-pupil spending. In response, Shumlin pledged to return to the Statehouse in January 2016 to delay the cap for a year—or dump it altogether.

Fresher Start

In 2012, a little-known developer and support commissioner named **DAVID WUNDERLICH** came out of nowhere to narrowly win the Democratic nomination for mayor of the Queen City.

Three years later, he headed to reelection on Town Meeting Day with 61 percent of the vote—defeating Progressive **CHRIS SOMMER** (23 percent), independent **ANDY STARR** (7 percent) and Libertarian **LOREN PLOFF** (2 percent).

When the state's top office opened up in June, Wunderguide had to make a move. But not around. You'll find this 41-year-old god on a staircase built for someone soon.

Special Counsel

Attorney General **DALE SHUMLIN** announced a report to his Montpelier office in March to assess 2014 legislative philosophical candidate **BRAD CROSBY** of resolving public election financing law. He and Crosby had imperiously asked the Vermont Democratic Party to assist its supporters on his behalf.

Shumlin proposed penalty for the \$255 cost of \$75,000.

Over the next six weeks, Seven Days published a series of stories demonstrating that Shumlin himself had played fast and loose with campaign finance law. A Republican operative, **BRAD TURNER**, seized on the stories and filed a series of complaints with the AG's office. Shockingly, Shumlin declined to investigate himself.

After a Senate committee called the AG in for questioning in April, Gov. Shumlin and a panel of state's attorneys appointed former journalist **RON LITTLE** to investigate the charges. As of press time, Little had not yet released the long-awaited report.

Shumlin's appointment in the 2012 Democratic primary, Chittenden County State's Attorney **LAURENCE MONTAGNA** in June that he was retiring again. Three months later, Shumlin bowed out of the race.

Numbers Games

The 2015 legislative session was even more taxing than usual.

It opened in January with a \$40.4 million payroll tax proposal from then Shumlin. And it closed in May with a budget and tax standstill that nearly resulted in a gubernatorial veto.

Shumlin lost both fights.

His payroll tax, designed to address the Medicaid cliff-hanger, never really got an airing. Legislators appeared more interested in debating a wage-restrained budget—rather than two, and dangerous death at the hands of those leaders.

Most of the session was spent figuring out how to close a \$113 million budget gap. Appropriations managed to find \$45 million in cuts, but that wasn't enough for Shumlin, who spent weeks dispatching the \$30 million worth of tax bills proposed by legislative leaders.

In the end, Shumlin caved and agreed to spend his fellow Democrats a few to session.

The Norm Storm

On a warm Thursday night the week before the legislative adjourned, plainclothes Vermont State Troopers arrested **SEN. NORM WOODWARD** (R-Franklin) in a parking lot outside the Statehouse.

Authorities accused him of sexually assaulting two women and attempting to coerce a third. The Highgate farmer pleaded not guilty and was released on bail. After learning that one of the alleged victims was Montpelier's young Statehouse

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assistent leaders of every party called for his resignation and his name panel stripped him of his committee assignments.

But McAllister didn't budge. As summer turned into fall and fall into winter, Senate leaders asked McAllister to return to work, but returning to the Senatehouse in 2006 knowing they didn't have the votes to oust him before he stood trial, they called him back a nation to suspend the senator. It passed the Senate Rules Committee in December and was scheduled for a vote on the House floor in January.

Shum's Done

Three weeks after the legislature adjourned, Gov. Shum's secretary of staff and cabinet members to a Senatehouse meeting, where he delivered the news that he wouldn't seek a fourth year term.

"I want these 18 months in office to be focused entirely on maximizing the work that we have started together," he told reporters later that morning.

The announcement shocked political insiders. Despite Shum's dismal legislative session and numerous the previous November. It marked the beginning of the end of an era for a truly policy guy who had climbed the ladder from the town councilboard to the Senate presidency to the chairmanship of the Democratic Governors Association.

When his term expires next winter, Shum's plan to return to southern Vermont with his new wife, **KAREN HANEY**, and get back to work at the family business, Putney Graduate Travel.

But it's hard to imagine we'll have seen the last of him.

All In

Shum's retirement announcement launched an especially early and competitive gubernatorial race. Within days, nearly every politician with a pulse said he or she was considering a run to replace him in 2008.

The field, in fact, briefly, in Congressmen **PETER HOLLEN** (D-Vt.) publicly pondered a bid — but he eventually associated with weak reelection to the U.S. House. By January, it was clear that the principal Republican candidate would be **Dr. GAIL POTTS** and retired investment banker **BRUCE LIPKIN** — and, on the Democratic side, Speaker Smith, former transportation secretary **JOE HUNTER** and former senator **PAUL DUMML**. Smith dropped out in November to start a family (Smith was).

The mere opening at the top of Vermont's political hierarchy set other races into motion. Currently vying for Smith's job in LG are Rep. **KEVIN HAN** (D-Burlington), Sen. **DAVE KIRKWOOD** (D-Chittenden), Marlboro Democrat **JOHN-DANIEL HARRIS** and 2012 Republican gubernatorial nominee **KAREN BRICE**.

But Smith and Zuckerman will abandon their legislative seats to run. And Smith's retirement from the legislature will prompt a race for House Speaker.

Tragedy Strikes

The quadruple homicide that rocked central Vermont in August was not a political story piece. It was a tragedy.

But the numbers of those horrific women and a Department for Children and Families social worker certainly had political repercussions, too as they were to such potent issues as child protection, substance abuse, mental illness and guns.

Most immediately, state workers wondered where they were being adequately protected from harm. One of the victims, DCF caseworker **JOAN COOK**, was killed as she was leaving work.

Others wondered whether chronic understaffing at DCF contributed to the tragedy. Cook had worked with the alleged shooter, who was apparently upset that her child had been removed from her custody five months later. One Shumian called for 35 new positions at DCF, arguing that the state's update crisis was straining the child welfare system.

The tragedy may also add fuel to Vermont's long-running debate over its sex gun laws. When gubernatorial candidate **Walter** announced support for universal background checks in November, he cited the August shootings, saying "Vermont is not immune to gun violence."

Bern Notice

Thirty-four years after Burlington elected him mayor, Sen. Sanders announced in April at a Capitol Hill press conference that he would seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

At first, Sanders was treated as a curiosity, not a contender. But the 74-year-old democratic socialist quickly caught fire. Within weeks of his May campaign kickoff on the Burlington waterfront, Sanders was packing arenas coast to coast. The words "kick the Bern" became a thing.

By September, the historic Lincoln Memorial was tied with Clinton in Iowa and leading her in New Hampshire. By October he was raising nearly as much money as the formidable fundraiser — largely from small-dollar donors.

But Sanders' run took a hit later that month when Vice President **JOE BIDEN** finally declared he would not join the race. With Biden out, Clinton further consolidated establishment support — and Sanders' race seemed to stall. His economic message, meanwhile, found less resonance after terrorist attacks in Paris and California refocused the focus on national security and foreign policy. Sanders' race has months to go before the Iowa caucuses. As Vermonters have learned by now, it's never wise to count him out. ☐

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And Then What?

Seven Days reporters update news stories from 2015

BY MARK DAVIS, ALICIA FREESE, TERRI HALLENBECK, NANCY REMSEN AND MOLLY WALSH

No one could say we ignored Bernie Sanders in 2015. Seven Days reporters wrote 11 political columns about the Vermont senator who is running for president, 122 blog posts and 30 print articles, three of which we featured on the cover. Bernie was also the subject of a “Stack in Vermont” video episode, won a couple of Duggan awards, and inspired both a Seven Days imitation contest and a Tech Issue story about Vermont-centric usage.

Not every story has legs like Bernie’s, but our news team kept apiece with countless other important local developments in 2015. While political editor Paul Hiestand was tracking Sanders, and Attorney General Bill Serrill, Terri Hallenbeck has been all over the governor’s race and the Vermont Gas pipeline controversy. On the health care beat, Nancy Remsen analyzed expansion plans at the University of Vermont Medical Center, construction at the new state office complex in Wardsboro and what still ails Vermont Health Care

Our hometown of Burlington is a hubbub for the rest of the state. Alicia Freese closely followed the evolution of UVM, from its first fights with local cab companies to the city’s ongoing attempts to rewrite its

**NOT EVERY STORY
HAS LEGS LIKE BERNIE’S,
BUT OUR NEWS TEAM KEPT APACE
WITH COUNTLESS OTHER IMPORTANT
LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015.**

statistics. She also covered the Champlain Riverfest, the Moran Plant and the woes of still-struggling Burlington College, which sold off almost all of its lakefront campus

to a housing developer. Molly Walsh applied similar sustained attention to the downtown public proposed renovation.

In 2015, Mark Davis put 363 miles on his car chasing down eggs, commissioners and convicts to keep up with the criminal justice reform movement, police violence and the impacts of Vermont’s practice of shutting counties out of state. Last January, he filed daily court reports from the historic federal trial of alleged Bosnian war criminal Radislav Sikic. In mid-December, Davis delivered news of a plea deal. The trial will drop the charges against Sikic, if he agrees to leave the country.

Outside of their regular beats, Seven Days reporters pursued plenty of other stories — some too big to ignore, some that other media outlets missed or glossed over. Plenty of them could be categorized as quirky. To find Vermont’s most fascinating characters, and conflicts, often requires driving far and digging deep.

As the year drew to a close, we revisited a few that merited follow-up. ☺

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alleged Serial Poacher Mounts a Vigorous Defense

FEB 11 Wayne Dixon of Irasburg may be one of the most prolific deer poachers in Vermont, according to the Fish & Wildlife officials who arrested him. When something goes wrong in late 2014, a game warden found more than 100-deer mounts, seven firearms full of shells and guns which could be used for animal bait and a shooting range in the bedroom that opened onto a field surrounded by five spotlights.

Deer tracks showed that deer he was catching from his bait were being sold to other hunters elsewhere in Newbury where he was going to find and poach animals. He was observed. They charged Wayne Dixon with nine counts of illegally killing and shooting animals, two with juvenile poaching with one count of possessing an illegal deer.

“It hurts my feelings,” Dixon said at the arraignment, which he pleaded a not guilty.

UPDATE: Most poaching cases in Vermont resolve in quick plea deals. But the Dixon one is shaping up to be an on-again-the-Northeast Kingdom

legal deathknock — and, as of press time, appeared to be headed for trial in early 2016.

Much of the case rests on a deer carcass that warden found in the couple’s basement. Warden David Gregory measured the temperature of the dead deer’s thigh and determined the animal died eight to 10 hours before the start of the 2014 hunting season. Such a premature kill would constitute a violation of Vermont law.

Defense attorneys have challenged the warden’s method of ascertaining time of death, calling it junk science.

Prosecutors avoided potential disaster when Judge Howard VerBerkhuyzen denied a request from the defense to discard that evidence. But he rebuffed Gregory from testifying about measurements taken in similar cases for the sake of comparison and encouraged defense attorneys to question the validity of the method during a “rigorous cross examination.”

The jury’s decision could affect how warden conduct future poaching investigations in Vermont.

Wayne Dixon



NEWS

In the Tiny Town of Victory, the Feuding Goes On

MAR 18

The northeast fan zone may have again fared its outposts, but the town of Victory population-62, has been

embroiled in a decades-long feud. Members of two factions in the tiny town — the former residents of the Hatfields versus the McEigs — have taken out no trespass orders and accused each other of trapping animals, killing pets and shooting true town officers.

In the late 1980s, the Boston Globe twice sent a reporter to Victory to document the conflict.

"We're covered up, basically," former town clerk and treasurer Carol Easter and Seven Days covered two recent skirmishes in the ongoing battle. In January longtime combatant Pat Mitchell refused to pay town taxes on what she claims is a nonprofit humane society but which those in an opposing camp say is a personal pet collection. Mitchell turned around and sued the town, accusing the officials of carrying out a personal vendetta against her.

The 2015 town meeting was dominated by news that an independent audit of Victory's books turned up missing records, undocumented spending and evidence of possible embezzlement from the town, which has a \$500,000 budget. A private accountant told the Victory residents gathered that she had found "very significant problems" during back seven years. Her findings triggered a new round of accusations aimed at Mitchell's enemies, which include several towns chair three years.

The battle between Mitchell's husband's predicted "when we're all dead."

UPDATE: No one has surrendered in Victory.

"I would say it's just as nasty as ever," Pat Mitchell said. "Loose, her cousin, brought '85 as prevailing — the good side."

Shortly after the Seven Days story ran, Mitchell ally Tracy Martel — who successfully ran for town clerk despite allegations that she had joined the "Toots of Victory" — installed a video camera to monitor the goings-on in the town's tiny office.

Loose installed a second camera there.

Martel resigned, paving the way for former town clerk Carol Easter, whom Martel had ousted, to reclaim the job.

It was not a graceful transition. "I had to catch up on a lot of shit. That lady didn't know what she was doing," Easter alleged.

Mitchell's has case continues to wind through the courts. She is still refusing to pay her taxes and has increased her flock to 67 animals. "It would take more than those type of people to make me stop," Mitchell explained.

In the coming weeks, the scheduled will receive a highly anticipated audit of the town's books, which

some say will include evidence of financial malfeasance.

The feuding could be ideal for Comedy Central's *Seven Days*: got a call from a "Daily Show with Trevor Noah" producer inquiring about the feud as a possible future feature.

— M.D.



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BURLINGTON

Money and Mask Ban Keep Burlington 'Furry'-Free

APR 01 During Burlington's Mardi Gras celebration last February, a city ordinance allowed a kind of people dressed as furry animals to renege their masks. The charge: They were performing on Church Street without the required permit.

The renegeurs are members of Vermont Furs — people known as "fursies" who share an interest in, and wear, animal costumes. They had attempted to receive their permit prior to Mardi Gras, according to Jodi Caldwell — whose "fursies" is

a not-for-profit driving corp — but had been told to hold off until the Church Street marketplace revamped its permit policy.

Marketplace executive director Pam Redmond said she supported allowing the Vermont Furs to perform at Church Street, but she first wanted to ensure patrons would be safe. He noted that in New York Times Square, people dressed as the Cookie Monster and Spider-Man had pickedpocketed and groped people.

In the meantime, the Vermont Furs learned that Church Street wasn't the only place that was off-limits to them. An obscure city ordinance prohibits people over age 21 from wearing masks in public, effectively banning their kind from Burlington.

UPDATE: The Church Street Marketplace updated its process for permitting street performers, and, as a result, it's a lot harder to make the cut. In the past, "99 percent" of applicants got approved; now, just 40 percent.

Nonetheless, Redmond and the Vermont Furs would likely pass muster. Why haven't they auditioned?

The marketplace also upped the price of permits. The group of 12 would have to pay \$540 for a one-year permit, which would cover background checks and administrative costs. That's not feasible for the Vermont Furs, who entertain for free, O'Brien said.

In their quest to do away with the mask ban, the fursies have gained an influential ally: Allen Gilbert, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont. In early November, Gilbert urged Burlington to repeal its ordinance after police detained two men wearing Guy Fawkes masks at an anti-Ku Klux Klan rally. Gilbert argued that masks can be a form of political expression — and therefore protected speech.

In response, Burlington's city attorney, Eileen Blackwood, is analyzing the ban. She expects to recommend "potential revisions" to the city council's ordinance committee in January.

—A.P.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Middlebury Police Probe Potential Link to Cold Case

APR 01 "The Jane, The Fall and Death of Robert Daniel" immortalized 1980 women's activist Dayguy with the story of the creepy and eccentric reclusion of a penniless New York City real estate broker who may have gotten away with murder. In fact, the disappearance and deaths of two other people he knew.

The man also lived near this quiet town by the lake in Vermont, and ran a health food store. All Cold Things' new novelized and an apartment house — was on Court Street in Middlebury before he lured a jaded 16-year-old Middlebury College student shepherdess on the day she first modeling in 1971. The last time anyone can place the stranger from Saratoga County, she was standing across the street from the store possibly waiting for a date, making guesses

Middlebury police worked the case for decades and were reviewing a tip in 2017 had been candidate for another hunt, not knowing to do with it. Hints: match for television documentary gave the department an opportunity to examine the possible connection to happen it, edges set some lateral tips.

Perpetrator national media outlets swarmed Middlebury. At her first press conference in 2017, Middlebury police officer David Stoddard distinguished himself as the lead investigator on the Schuler case.

UPDATE: The burst of publicity did bring in some tips and recollections, but Schuler's disappearance remains a mystery.

Darst has declined to talk to Middlebury police, according to Chief Thomas Husley, who said he believes the incarcerated man could provide information that would help resolve the case.

"We know that there was contact between them, we know that she went in there," Husley said, referring to the health food store Darst owned in the '70s.

Leads may know more than they're saying too.

"There are some people we suspect are somewhat reluctant to speak with us in depth," Husley said, adding, "They may be holding a few things back."

Darst lived outside Middlebury, in Rupert, but few people in the small town remember him. Police have searched his former property and others in the area. Schuler has never been found.

Darst remains jailed on weapons charges in Louisiana and first-degree murder charges in California for the death of his friend, Susan Berman.



If any or may not be implicated in Schuler's disappearance, Husley said. David Stoddard remains the lead investigator on the matter, which has, over the years, generated a fair case file. According to her bio, she has no intention of giving up.

—M.W.

ECONOMY

The Weakening Loonie Keeps Some Canadians at Home

APR 08

For more than a decade, Canadian customers could buy their necessities at the Newport Market and Café with their own colorful currency. But last spring, a sign went up at the cash register to announce that the Canadian currency store would no longer accept loonies.

The value — roughly on par with the U.S. dollar just a couple of years ago — had dropped to about 80 American cents. Tourism loonies wanted that, despite Vermont's intention: the Canadian university exchange rate could discourage our neighbors from the north from visiting — and spending, especially in border towns. Vermont's last reason toward the loonies.

UPDATE: The Canadian dollar is even weaker now. Since March, its worth has dropped to about 72 American cents.

Bookings at Burlington International Airport, where Canadian traffic is an important source of revenue, are down 24 percent this year from last. Officials are hoping the winter school holidays will bring the usual seasonal bump. "There's still a lot of Canadians coming to Burlington," said Gene Richards, BTV director of aviation.

It's unclear how big a hit tourism might take. The good news: State rooms and meals tax revenue for the first four months of the fiscal year that started in July is running 6.5 percent higher than last year — so much about the spending money.

Some state highway welcome centers are seeing more visitors. Yet the welcome



Arletta Perry, a manager at Newport Market and Café.



center on northbound Interstate 89 near the Canadian border reported 75 percent fewer visitors in October.

On Church Street, Canadians typically account for between 4 and 6 percent of sales, according to John Redmond, executive director of the Church Street Marketplace Commission.

At the Hampart store there, much of the normal Canadian shopping traffic has "evaporated," said Mark Bouchet, co-owner of the family business. "I speak French, and I do a lot of the talking to the French customers who come into the store, and they haven't been here. Last weekend I may have seen one French-speaking couple in the store, and that's highly unusual."

Still, December sales were on track to finish 16 percent higher than last December's, making it an "outstanding" month, Bouchet said. With Vermont shoppers confident about the economy, he said, and December's unusually warm weather helped.

—HW

AND THEN WHAT? BY FIVE

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And Then What? p. 18

HEALTH CARE

At Vermont Vets' Home, No Rest From Funding Challenges

MAY 06

The Vermont Veterans' Home has been an ongoing financial grind since the Great Recession. The number of patients has dropped in this sector, meaning fewer shell serves veterans of military service, their spouses and "old star" parents who've lost a son or daughter in the line of duty. It has lost some federal funding because inspectors found deficiencies. And the home had failed to collect \$1 million for care it provides.

Leadership had begun talking about privatizing, selling or closing the home until they learned that shutting it down could oblige the state to repay the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \$8 million for recent capital improvements. Privatization would take time. So the state got us geared up for a mission to keep the home open—but entered a study due in January of how to operate it sustainably.

UPDATE: The Vermont Veterans' Home is now licensed for 130 beds, not 171, which saves \$100,000 a year.

Still, overtime is running more than \$190,000 over budget, said CEO Melissa Jackson, which is why management wants to implement a new schedule that would maintain constant staffing levels throughout the week.

That requires negotiating with the union workforce—which hasn't gone well. The Vermont State Employees' Association, which represents the 190



Jack Truitt sits in the grounds of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

full-time nursing staff, asked for a modification in October after the two sides failed to reach agreement. Stacy Crawford, a licensed practical nurse, said the schedule

that management offered would have required nurses to work five of six weekends.

Barbara King, a licensed nursing

assistant, blames the excessive overtime on a shortage of staff. She said, "They have built no buffer in at all."

—N.R.

BUSINESS

Vermont's Medical Marijuana Industry Is on the Move

JUN 03

Six months ago seven days' Round Vermont's two-year-old medical marijuana industry.

Customers demanded in Chittenden County. Dispensaries were looking to open to a grow facility in Mexico, where some officials were skeptical of cultivating with—let's mention

leaving space to—each individual. At the same time, dozens of other dispensary were looking to move to Williston, hoping to tap into the larger Chittenden County market.

The state meanwhile has working out rules to allow dispensaries to begin offering home delivery of medical marijuana to registered patients.

UPDATE: It took some convincing, but the Milton grow facility is up and running, said Shyenne Lynn, executive director of the Champlain Valley Dispensary and Southern Vermont Williams. His company runs two of the state's four licensed dispensaries, in Burlington and Barre, and is continuing to use its older growing and testing facility in South Burlington, he said.

Lynn will apparently not face competition in Chittenden County, as state officials turned down Rutland County Dispensary's request to move the Round dispensary to Williston. Lindsay Wells, the state's marijuana program administrator, said state officials were concerned that patients in the Rutland County area

would be left without a conveniently located source.

To that end, dispensaries recently got the green light to start home delivery—provided the Department of Public

VERMONT RECENTLY GOT THE GREEN LIGHT TO START HOME DELIVERY.

Safety approves their procedures, including safety precautions. Although the mobile marijuana business isn't restricted by geography, patients

have to pick—and stick with—one dispensary.

Lynn said Champlain Valley Dispensary plans to begin regular delivery service in January. "We run a wait list for drivers and got over 50 applications," he reported.

—T.H.

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DEVELOPMENT

Is Burlington Ready to Grow ... Up?

JUN 10

A \$200 million plan to rebuild Burlington Town Center — the Queen City's aging mall — is forcing the town's board only to envision its future. The construction of two 14-story towers would require changes to the 105-foot height limit, new parking structures, an 18,000-sq-ft freight-signaling facility, and a new skyline — all rank as the tallest buildings in Vermont with 300 units of housing. They'd also begin to reshape the city's housing shortage.

Both the city council and planning commission would have to sign off on the proposal from developer Silver. In a series of public meetings, residents were asked to voice their concerns. Some said it would be a disaster.

"I think we'd have to make sure the character of Burlington, and the town director at Burlington Community and Economic Development Office, Peter Dwyer, would be a disaster."

UPDATE: Since then, the town's board has not yet voted on the plan. The Burlington Development Review Board — instead, he submitted it to a public planning process.

There's been relatively little discussion about tower height in those meetings so far, but some city residents



Rendering of the mall project.

have expressed their concerns through other means, and Jane Knodell, the Progressive president of the Burlington City Council, who also serves on the mall Development Agreement Public Advisory Committee.

The goal is for the towers to fit in with the architecture and feel of the city, while allowing for several hundred units of new housing in Burlington's dense, walkable downtown, says Knodell and she'd support the height increase if the public benefits of the project meet her goals for better street connectivity,

affordable housing and a revitalized retail center.

Some aspects of the proposal have changed already. The new parking garage will be above ground, not underground, due to cost, says Knodell. But it will be on the exterior of the project, hidden from view. The most up-to-date design for the project will be presented at 5:00 p.m. January 5 in the mall's lower level. The public is invited to look at plans and weigh in.

City notes will have their say via a future ballot question about

township financing for mall infrastructure. "In practice it will be almost like a vote up or down on the whole project," Knodell said.

But plans for a March vote have been dropped, and it's unclear whether the question will go on the November 2016 ballot.

Since then, it will take most of next year to get through the permitting process. If approved, it hopes to build the project in 2017 and replace the mall with a more modern, mixed-use development.

—M.W.

DEVELOPMENT

Colchester Officials Give Up the Buoy Battle

JUL 22

In June, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave Essex Bay a mission: to protect 22 buoys off the town's property.

Months ago, a housing crisis. The purpose to create a safe swimming area for future residents of Essex's housing development. The Colchester Select Board had unanimously approved the buoys on the grounds that they would protect off-shore boats in Champlain — especially in the town's 10th anniversary of private property owners.

Wanted that Essex's buoys would not in private, the one-classified to be used in ways to prevent a proliferation of buoys along Colchester's 27-mile shore line. Its members wrote the Army Corps requesting something.

UPDATE: The Army Corps did respond to town manager Dawn Francis and Selectman Marc Landry. "It was a very short meeting," Mulcahy reported. He said whether Colchester had any response to influence future buoy applications. The answer, a peremptory "no."



Buy permits in Lake Champlain fall squarely within the Army Corps' purview. In some instances, the state Agency of Natural Resources has a say — but towns do not.

"It is little," Mulcahy declared. "We have no authority and don't have the way it is." In October, the selectboard voted 3-2 to drop the issue.

In early November, the Army Corps informed the town that it had received another application for buoys. This time, property owners at the Camp Edgewater Condominiums want to install one of them to warn boaters to slow down.

The selectboard has asked the Army Corps to reject the proposal, but Selectman Marc Landry said he expects the town will ignore its answer. In a meeting, he predicted, "If they play out as I expect it, one by one, property owners will take advantage of the ability to create off [the] lake in front of their houses. They would be out of it."

—A.E.

2015updates

A recent game camera image of Murphy



ANIMALS

Still Spooked: Murphy the Dog Eludes Capture

JUL 29

On June 2014, Murrieta resident Wendy Campbell got into a minor car crash on State. When Campbell checked on her beloved 3-year-old golden retriever Murphy, he bolted when the backseat. He has been on the loose ever since.

"When my car was hit, he came like a jack-in-the-box," Campbell's grandfather Ed Howard told Seven Days. "He doesn't know who he is." Some say Murphy likely associates the yelling of his name — which sounds like Good Samaritans have done — with the trauma of the accident. A professional dogcatcher says Murphy likely went into "survival barking mode" because of the trauma of the crash and has reacted to his odd scent.

In the year and a half since, Murphy has been spotted numerous times along the Route 54 corridor and made frequent appearances at the State Farm home of Associated Press reporter Wilson King. King and friends built a custom dog trap, baited with food and set up video surveillance, but the dog proved elusive. The one time they managed to catch him, the trap Murphy ran his way through the wiring and escaped.

UPDATE: Murphy sightings were few and far between over the summer, and his would-be rescuers almost gave up hope. In recent weeks, though, the runaway dog has reappeared at King's house, albeit on less wary of the trap.

When King and others have placed food outside the trap, Murphy has, at times, gobbled it up — including a bunch laced with heartworm and flea medications, to keep him healthy.

MURPHY'S STORY COULD STILL HAVE A HAPPY ENDING.

The goal is to move the food deeper inside the trap, but Murphy is spooked by the slightest change in routine. "They're been slowly, slowly moving the food back," said Middlesex animal control officer Ben Holm. "Too far in back, he won't go in at all. You have to work it in really small increments, or he won't touch it."

Murphy's appearances have also been irregular, making it difficult for his rescuers — who all have day jobs — to know when they may need to spring into action. But volunteers say they won't give up. If they can get him on a more regular

feeding schedule, and slowly lure him into the trap, Murphy's story could still have a happy ending.

"I want to reiterate him with his family," Holm said. "I think that's what he wants, too. He just doesn't know how to do it."

—M.G.

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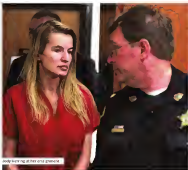
ILLUSTRATION: JEFFREY MAYER

ILLUSTRATION: JEFFREY MAYER

CRIME

A DCF Caseworker's Slaying Reverberates Statewide

AUG 12 The shocking out-of-control Friday afternoon August, as state workers were just starting to leave work for the weekend. Their last inside Barre City Place ended to the winners to give it the parking lot below Lake Sobel. A state Department for Children and Families caseworker was on the ground, instantly wounded. A woman with a side-coarsely yelling that DCF had taken her 5-year-old daughter. Police officers later identified the shooter as, July 11, 2016. Officers including Wilmington County State's Attorney David Williams, rushed over to try to help Sobel and to restrain Herring. Officers say they later observed that Herring had shot and killed her two cousins, Regine and Rhonda Herring, 43 and 45, and her aunt, Julie Herring, 70, in their family home. Herring, 46, of South Barre, was pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges in all four deaths.



July 11, 2016, at the scene of the shooting.

UPDATE: Three DCF caseworkers got a direct result of Sobel's death, according to Commissioner Ken Schatz. In December, Gov. Peter Shumlin pledged to add 35 social workers and other staff in 2016. A major cause of

the crisis: Drug-addicted parents are neglecting their children, forcing the state to take custody of an increasing number of them.

Meanwhile, DCF began to issuing threats against its workers in the wake of the shooting and has counted 109, Schatz said. "It is of great concern," he

said. Some of these making the threats have invoked Herring's name, Schatz said. "That's the context in which people describe it. And that's awful," Schatz told a legislative committee in October, WPTZ TV reported. Herring's administration is assessing possible security changes for state offices, an issue that legislators say will be high on their agenda in January.

That same month, DCF workers will move from the Barre City Place offices, Schatz said, to the state court building just down the street, where visitors have to pass through metal detectors.

The department also plans to standardize its policies for social worker visits to clients' homes. In some circumstances, Schatz said, employees who once would have gone alone will be accompanied by another state worker and, in some cases, a law-enforcement officer.

Herring remains jailed without bail. Her case is scheduled for a status conference in Wilmington County Superior Court on February 24.

—TH

CRIME

Randy Quaid: Stuck in Vermont, Legally

OCT 28 How did actor Randy Quaid — of *Backdraft*, *Whisper*, and *National Lampoon's Vacation* fame — end up with his wife and son stuck in little Lincoln, Vt.? The story reads like a bad movie script. Anneli, 40, was a resident in California but charged the pair with assaulting in their former Hollywood home and dragging out an 18-hour fight. The Quaides countered by claiming that a shadowy cabal of insiders, the Hollywood Star Whistleblowers, was trying to kill them.

All of that drove them to Canada, where they'd been for five years before they decided to come back to the U.S. through Vermont. The Quaides were arrested and charged for violating the California law.

Days later, though, a Franklin County judge declared there was no legal basis for the California warrants — and hence for holding the duo. The Quaides headed to Pat's father's home in Lincoln and pledged to begin work in the quiet Addison County town. Randy even expressed interest in joining the Lincoln volunteer fire department and playing Santa Claus at the annual local Christmas parade.

UPDATE: The Quaides are still in Lincoln, according to their attorney, Peter Langrock, but Randy has not joined the fire department.



"If he showed up, we would have welcomed him," said Fire Chief Dan Ober. "But we're not going to go looking for him."

California authorities have not followed through on their threat to extradite the Quaides. That leaves them in legal purgatory. They are free to remain in Vermont but could potentially face arrest on the California warrants — which are still valid in other states — the second they cross the state line, Langrock said.

The couple could not be reached, but in colorful and bizarre social media posts, they have extolled Vermont. In one video, Randy grabs handfuls of leaves that he had stashed in his pants and throws them into the air while frolicking in a green field. In another, he roils against "petrol Nazis" in a collaboration of humor and self-compassion that, Quaid says, "inspired and made him nervous." Quaid ends the video by endorsing Donald Trump for president, concluding that he is the only candidate not beholden to the powerful group.

—HB

BUSINESS

Finally Christine

NOV
04

Dave Hallquist was leading a double life when Devin Doyle observed the 58-year-old chief executive officer of Vermont Electric Cooperative last month. Among friends and family, Hallquist was Christine. Among colleagues, employees and board members at the state's second-largest electric utility, the CEO was still appearing as Devin.

Preparing to take the final steps in her gender transition — going to work as Christine — Hallquist received her hopes and fears in a new report about reconciling two worlds.

UPDATE: At 7 a.m. on December 2, Christine Hallquist arrived at VEC's Newport district office and met with line workers. "There were some initial deer-in-the-headlights looks," she said. But the transition at work has gone smoothly. "Everybody's met Christine, and they seem fine as can be."

The company website has updated with the CEO's new name, photo and email address.

Changing her name and gender on official documents has been more complicated. The Department of Motor Vehicles initially told Hallquist she needed to change her Social Security card first. The Social Security Administration told her she needed to change her driver's license first. Persistence paid off, and Hallquist received an enhanced driver's license on December 16.

While she was waiting, Hallquist persuaded the DMV to put her new photo — with a wig and makeup — on her old driver's license, the one with the name "Devin." Identified as such, she breezed through airport security on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

"Everybody was very polite," she said.

In Washington, Hallquist spoke at a National Conference of State Legislatures about the benefits of well-placed solar projects. It was Christine's first appearance before a national group. Although only a few people in the audience had known her as Devin, Hallquist wasn't worried about how she would be perceived. "I didn't notice anything different," she said.

Hallquist said she's concerned that the transition has not gone as smoothly for other transgender people. "I hear lots of stories. People have to leave their jobs. I'm probably not having the same experience as others."

—E.H.

Christine Hallquist

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Jurassic World Director Turns the Camera on a Human-Size Story

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE

In an uncharacteristic state of a focus on an uncharacteristic back-breaking in downtown Burlington, the director of the year's biggest movie (turning the possibility of Death's star-size returns for Star Wars: The Force Awakens) is quietly working on his next project. It's a decidedly smaller-scale film, no fringing location shoots, no \$150 million budget and no digital dinosaurs.

The *Book of Henry*, the next film from Burlington director JACOB TREMPER, is significantly smaller in scope than *Jurassic World*. That *Tyranosaurus*-size juggernaut earned more than \$1.6 billion worldwide, stamping to the top of the year's box-office charts begins to be planned.

With its comparatively modest \$10 million budget and its focus on a single family, *The Book of Henry* seems an unusual next move for Tremper. Yet the director said that the movie is, in many ways, a logical step for him.

The offices of Tremper's production company are spare and functional. Few decorations adorn the walls, and the kitchen is staffed mainly with coffee, the lifeblood of the film editor.



Director (left) is Tremper (left) and actor Jacob Tremblay on the set of *The Book of Henry*.

Only the two tricked-out edit suites and the burning servers give indication of the operation under way here.

The low-key setup seems to suit Tremper just fine. He's enjoying and savoring, granting a reporter with a

friendly "hey, man" before setting in the office's only couch.

Safety Not Guaranteed, Tremper's profitable 2012 indie sci-fi comedy, was made on a budget of about \$750,000, his next movie's budget was 20 times that

sure. "In the same way that I felt I had to move into the future to direct *Jurassic World* in myself in 20 years, I went back and directed [*The Book of Henry*] in myself right after *Safety*," Tremper said. "It was very fundamental, bone-deep thinking."

The *Book of Henry* was originally slated to be Tremper's follow-up to *Safety Not Guaranteed*, but, upon landing the *Jurassic* gig, he had to bow out politely. Though he promised he'd return to the project, the film's producers didn't believe him. "They were like, 'No, you're not. You're gonna be directing disaster movies forever,'" he said with a laugh. But after completing *Jurassic World*, Tremper found that Henry's producers had yet to sign a replacement, so he returned, as good as his word.

Tremper was not out casting the film, choosing *Star Wars* for the lead and "breaking Bad's" *Boys n' Girls* for the heavy. Young actors Jacob Tremblay and Jordan Peele were cast in the crucial roles of Henry's character's sons.

Though Tremper was tight-lipped about the specifics of the film's story, he said that, for him, that story constitutes its chief appeal. "[*The Book of Henry*] is not a little movie," he said. "It's a much bigger story than [*Jurassic World*]. It's this mind-bending story—that's why I'm so excited about it. It's like a fable, like a lost Bible story that we didn't know existed... The events that occur in this

Sabra Field On-Screen: A New Doc Celebrates Vermont Printmaker

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE

The first contact between artist SABRA FIELD and filmmaker M. PHILLIPS was anything but auspicious. Phillips and his family had just moved to buy East Barton. On a spring morning in 1975, they were alerted when a dog ran into their porch and shook their feet with the snap of its teeth, barking. Phillips gave chase, but the dog eluded him.

Field, the renowned Vermont artist and owner of the dog, immediately had the animal put down. Soon thereafter, when the Phillipses were away, she attached a bag of fiddleheads and a note of apology to their doorstep.

"We never really talked about it," says Phillips. "In fact, even though [*East Barton*] is a small town of 83, we never really got to be friends."



Paul Johnson and Sabra Field.

Four decades later, with the animals long buried and grievances forgotten, the two are connected not just by friendship but by a camera lens.

Phillips' recent hour-long documentary *Sabra: The Life & Work of Printmaker Sabra Field* has been steadily making the rounds of film festivals and small local

screening venues. Partly a celebration of Field's work, the film also has a point to make: that her art is more complex than you might think.

Field is primarily known for her boldly colored landscapes that draw their expressive power from Vermont's remarkable natural scenery. Those images of rolling hills, bright red barns and snaky blue rivers have given her a lofty reputation in the printmaking field, their sales have allowed it Field to make a living from her art.

Yet, as *Sabra* makes clear, the range and depth of her work are far more extensive than even her fans might realize. She has produced many abstract works, a figurative series based on mythology, Indian tableaux and even several works with a political slant. In the film, these and other lesser-known aspects of Field's artistic process receive screen time equal to her landscapes.

Sabra's screen pays close, adoring attention to her print works, but the liveliest scenes are those in which the artist is interviewed on screen by her son, PAUL. Paul wasn't a member of the

family are as epic as anything that can happen with people and dinosaurs."

After a six-week shoot in the New York City suburbs, the film's production wrapped in November, after which Trevorrow

joined his two editors in Burlington. They'd been receiving footage from the shoot in stages and had created an assembly (a first draft) by the time the director arrived for a 10-week edit session. "It's a lot of steps, it's been a more challenging edit [than that of *Jaws* or *World*]...and that's why I want to do it," he said.

"If you have a movie that's as successful as *Jaws* or *World*, you can rest on those laurels for a while. I am continuing my tradition of attempted career suicide at every turn. One of these days, I'm going to succeed."

Trevorrow was quipping about his unusual career path of moving directly from indie production to mega-productions. He's aware of the potentially misleading message that his story sends to prospective filmmakers. "It suggests that you can be standing in a 7-Eleven and someone will tap you on the shoulder and say 'Hey, you're going to direct *Jaws* or *World*,'" he said. "When, in reality, I was faking insanity for a

decade, with periodic successes that allowed me to continue."

Joking aside, Burlington's most famous — and most unrecognized — film director seems to have broken that pattern. In six or eight months, he and his

family will appear there: advice to move to London, where he'll direct another film than *Star Wars*: Episode IX. "I'm going to Tagalog!" is how Trevorrow put it, invoking the name of a planet in the *Star Wars* universe.

Though that genre-toss, effects-heavy production might seem like yet another unusual step

for Trevorrow after *The Book of Henry*, he pointed out that the two films are not all that dissimilar. Like *The Book of Henry*, he said, "My next movie is a family drama. It's a large-scale family drama set in space, but it's still a family drama." *Star Wars* is the only kind of movie where everybody can just yell, "Nooooo!" and you're with it. So to do a movie that gets to that level of pure, human-hearted joy and emotion — I like that was the right thing to do." ☐

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INFO

The Book of Henry is slated for release in 2016.

film's come late, as Phillips observes, his presence enabled Field to relax and open up, revealing aspects of her personality — such as the grief that she suffered from the death of her husband and son — that are largely unknown even to her admirers. The film is true to its title. It really is about her life and her work.

It's no surprise that Phillips, 66, a longtime admirer of Field's art, was able to find a compelling story in her career. The writer of some 50 screenplays for film and television (including 1985's Stephen King adaptation *Christina*), he has long held the position of professor of film and media studies at his alma mater, Dartmouth College. In making *Sabra*, Phillips stepped behind the camera for the first time since directing the 1992 comedy *There Goes the Neighborhood*.

"When you write a fictional script," he says, "you are making things happen the way you want them to happen [for

Sabra]. But the material talks to me. Even when Sabra said, 'What are you going for here?' I really needed answering until the material started telling me where to go with it."

"I kind of learned out on screenwriting," Phillips adds. "After writing 50, I thought I didn't have anything else to write. Filmmaking is my first love, so I've gotten back into that."

Apparently he's done it well, as Sabra has earned local accolades, pulling in the audience favorite award at the 2015 VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL's Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase category and earning a nomination for best feature at the 2015 HONOLULU NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL. Next up, a January 25 screening at the GALLERY AND ART CENTRAL in Lebanon, N.H. Though Phillips plans to continue to screen the film in the area, he's now concentrating on DVD

SABRA FIELD ON SCREEN IN 2016

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Vermont Trekkies Will Launch Web-Based TV Series 'Star Trek Anthology'

BY KEN PICARD

Seven Days' September 9 story "Bouncing Thor" covered the launch of *Tricknadelings*, a first-ever "Star Trek" convention held in Taconic, NY. The three-day event, hosted in the town's Ritzo Film Studios, was the brainchild of James Crowley, a 48-year-old Taconic resident and devoted Trekkie.

Over the past decade, Crowley has hosted the entire film set of the 1988 *Enterprise* in meticulous detail, using blueprints from the original 1960s TV series. He and his friends then began filming new studio-quality episodes of their homage to the series — "Star Trek: New Voyagers" — featuring such classic characters as Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock and Dr. McCoy. Those episodes, in which some of the original cast members have appeared, are posted online for free viewing.

After that article appeared, we learned that some Vermont Trekkies are getting in on the act. They're preparing to shoot their own "Star Trek" special,



He took us into a *Star Trek* world.

sometimes using Crowley's sets for their productions. **JAMES BART**, a 58-year-old retired set designer from Highgate Springs, is the chief executive producer and creator of "Star Trek Anthology,"

a planned collection of three separate series based on the "Star Trek" universe created by the show's founder, Gene Roddenberry.

The first series, titled "Starship

Challenger," features a character who appeared in the 1966 "Star Trek" pilot, "The Cage." **WENDIE J.M. GALT**, in "Starship Challenger," Galt is grown up and commands her own starship. She's played by Bart's wife, **AN HALLINGER BART**, who bears an uncanny resemblance to actress Laurel Goodson, who portrayed Galt in '65.

The second series, titled "Methers," revolves around a family that operates a freighter on the outer fringes of the galaxy. As Bart explains, the story focuses on a father and his two kids, both of whom are autistic. Portraying them are the Bart's 12-year-old son, who plays a high-functioning computer geek, and 16-year-old daughter, who pilots the ship. Both are themselves on the autism spectrum.

The third of "Star Trek Anthology" is titled "Assignment: Earth." Based on the final episode of "Star Trek's" second season, it involves time travelers and interstellar agents.

Neither of the Barts are newsmen

HIPPIE INVASION: WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT '70S SHOW?

In March and April of this year the **VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** in Raine hosted a series of historic community forums on the influence of 1970s counterculture on the state — and vice versa. These gatherings, which Kevin J. Kelley wrote about in March, marked the early stages of a VHS research project called "Vermont Counterculture and Its Lasting Influence," funded in part through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

As VHS's current vice president, curator **JACQUE CALDER** says the project is moving along. "Though she notes that collecting oral histories is taking a little longer than anticipated. Through the efforts of Calder, who public programs coordinator **ANNE BART** and two hired interviewers, approximately 50 oral histories have been gathered so far. Most of the subjects are individuals who came to Vermont as young adults and are now 50 to 60 years old.

For interviewees, Kelley says that the most successful method is to ask for "conversations and leads." Calder says, "We never know where it's going."

One surprising discovery she notes is the relationship between the influx of liberal-minded youth in Vermont and

initiatives in community health care. Calder cites a local operation called the Free Vermont Traveling Medicine Show, which evolved into the Burlington Free People's Clinic — and eventually into the Community Health Centers of Burlington. She also mentions the Home Health Handbook, a lay collection of basic health care information that got a "pretty good" review in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Not all the relics the 1970s turned up are positive. Calder references the "hippie squats" in the spring of 1970 in an outbreak caused in large part by a newspaper article that claimed 50,000 young people were coming to take over Vermont. The North Proctor Park in Montpelier was perhaps the most notorious example of a so-called "hippie invasion." The 50 acres near the Canadian border were purchased by a California commune in 1968 and listed as a free space without owners or rules — what Calder refers to as "assembly by first and seizure." VHS's archives have that same-era file with evidence of Vermonters' anxiety about their changing home. Calder points to a "wonderful folder" of letters to then governor Deane C. Oliver, which gazed for or demand repairs from



United for Vermont: Farm in the 1970s.

the threat of so many "progressive" newcomers. One Galt recalls a handwritten note charges. "Any intelligent person can tell by their looks that this land is not Vermonters and that they are Communists trained."

From people to speak about negative experiences of Vermont

counterculture has been a challenge, however. Calder says that while it is hard to find indications of such reactions on surveys, the respondents remained anonymous.

"Everybody has their own story. That's the other thing we're finding out," says Calder. While such skepticism to Vermont

theatrical productions. For years, they owned and operated a successful theater company in Berlin, Fla., called Stage Door Productions. James Bray also spent more than 20 years designing sets and props for Disney and Universal, and has worked as a set designer for Vermont's **THEATRE COMPANY**.

Bray says that meeting Cowley was "fismet." About five years ago, Bray was helping some fellow Trekheads rebuild another fan-built "Star Trek" set in Oklahoma City. Most fan-based productions, like Cowley's and Bray's, are accomplished using volunteers, donated materials and cash gifts. When the Oklahoma group posted an online request for material to make uniforms, Cowley offered to donate costume fabric he'd acquired from the original TV series. Bray drove from Vermont to New York to pick it up.

**THE FIRST SERIES,
TITLED "STARSHIP
CHALLENGER,"
FEATURES A
CHARACTER WHO
APPEARED IN
THE 1965 "STAR
TREK" PILOT.**

Bray recalls arriving at Cowley's studio while the latter's crew was shooting pickup shots that required Klingon makeup. When Cowley's makeup artist "pulled a no-show" Bray, who was familiar with the makeup, offered to help — then spent the rest of the afternoon making Klingon foreheads.

"I've been playing with James ever since," Bray says. "We have a ball."

As "Star Trek Anthology" begins filming in April, Bray says he's still looking for volunteers, including a director of photography, production assistants and a few good makeup artists. "A wealthy benefactor or two would be a tad, too," he adds. ☺

Contact: kero@sevendaystv.com

INFO

To volunteer or donate funds or supplies toward upcoming productions of "Star Trek Anthology," email volunteer@starculture.com

**Sabra Field
On-Screen**

roles and securing the film's broadcast on Vermont PBS.

Field has achieved success and acclaim with her art. But, as she observes in an essay to *Seven Days*, being the subject of a documentary is another kind of honor, and one that has elicited a wide range of emotions in her.

"Having a film made is a big deal, for sure," she writes, "but it evokes the old fears of not being good enough — the impostor blues ... It's an honor, but a big risk, too. Every time one clicks a red light above the trash, one runs risks." ☺

Contact: kshen@sevendaystv.com

INFO

Sabra: The Life & Work of Performance Artist Sabra directed by Bill Phillips available on DVD directed by Bill Phillips available on DVD. Screening on Thursday, January 26, 8 p.m., at ANS Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon, N.H. \$10 (Director will meet on-site, complimentary w/g).

in the '70s had individual motives, she concludes that for the most part, the program was "white middle class and very well educated." Among the participants, teacher son of writer Emerson and medical professional Calder adds, "No matter what they did they really remained connected to their ideology. A lot of people are still living very simply."

The fruits of VHS' labor will culminate in an exhibit on and symposium in the fall of 2012. Calder or Gustin will likely assemble a book of their findings.

That won't be the last word on the subject, Calder suggests that the primary goal of the project is to "collect the information and have it in a central place" where it will be available to future researchers. Next Fall's events will just show the "tip of the iceberg" that VHS is uncovering. "We never really finish a project like this," Calder says.

RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

Contact: rachel@sevendaystv.com

INFO

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STATE *of* THE *arts*

PlanBTV Update: How Artists Used BCA Funds to Sound Off on the South End

陳其南 2012 年 11 月 10 日

Outside the SOUTH END ARTS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION offices on Pine Street, a "masterpiece" of art is tucked against the brick wall. Both functional and free (the masters don't operate), it quietly represents what has been a sometimes-contentious public conversation over the past year: TYLER VERHOEFF received a stipend from BURLINGTON CITY ARTS to create the sculpture, a very common way as the lack of parking in the South End. It was one of the projects funded through a \$100,000 grant RCA received from the National Foundation for the Arts' Our Town program in 2006.

The grant bolstered the \$127,982 budget for planiTV South End, the city ran initiative to create a framework for future changes to the postindustrial creative district centered on Pine Street. BCIA's mission was to help engage the public in the planning process. It allocated \$50,000 in grants to artists for the creation of public-art projects intended to engage residents and stimulate citizens' input.

Vendland's bike rack was one of 18 such public works. Another that's still visible — at **3430 LEACH AVENUE** (near **LAKE OSHKOSH**) — is **JOHN VANDERLIP**'s day sculpture depicting solutions to storm-water runoff such as rain gardens and permeable driveways. Others were more ephemeral, such as **KATE DONAGHUE**'s "Crossing Pines" performance piece — in which the artist repeatedly crossed the busy street pulling a rack hung with colorful rain ponchos, donating a new one at each stop.

According to ECA assistant director **SARA RAY**, the hope was that these artists' works would speak to South End residents, some of whom might not be able to attend planning meetings or otherwise be represented in the dialogue on the South End.

Actress educator **MARJORIE STANLEY** sought to engage an often untapped audience: kids. Last winter and spring, the **MONROVIA STAGE** founder worked with youth from the Boys & Girls Club of Burlingame, King Street Center and her own art classes to create a DVD presentation.

Tara Brumau (left), Terry Eggenrud (center) and Matt Rising

round. It was displayed at the planBTV South End draft plan release party at ARTSPACE in June.

Standley prompted the kids to contemplate what they liked about their neighborhood and what they would like to see change. "They wanted homes for the benches and tree houses," says the artist. But most of all, "they wanted an outdoor seating area."

If you look closely at the paper-plastered entrance now hanging outside ARTSPACE, curiously

CALLING ALL VOICES

A neighborhood map sponsored by Terry Ziegand

erect after almost seven months of exposure to the elements, you can see notes written by the children who created them. One reads, "No swearing." Another: "No ice cream truck, different song."

NICHOLAS BROWN and JENNIFER BROWN turned to local teens South End residents for their project. Through questionnaires and in-person interviews, the pair collected ideas regarding the future of the South End from residents of Decker Towers, What? Lane and Robbin Mill Apartments. They represented the response in a mural that was presented during a community workshop in February, also at ARTSPACE. Transportation was a key issue, Berger says, "specifically that the condition of the road and sidewalks makes it hard to get around."

In May, Styles and Berger used the stories they collected in an evening of performance art featuring multiple artists at the Howard Space Center.

Other grant recipients attempted to engage an even broader audience. Glass artist **MARK CHAMBERLAIN** received funding for three different projects, two of them collaborations with artists **TRINA COLEMAN** and **WART BANG**. The trio's first creation was a work in plywood and paint titled "Seeds for 88ADP" (an acronym for the South End Arts District) Goran, the coordinator responsible for the colorful landscape that greets City Market shoppers, lost her signature broadstrokes to three wooden tree cutouts. These were placed along Pine Street during the South End Court in November 2016.

Wooden "seeds" scattered on the ground invited pedestrians to write

responses to one of two prompts — "What is it about the South End that makes you smile?" and "What about the South End would you like to see change?" Participants could then return the seeds (with their answers) to one of the trees. Surveys asking similar questions were conducted at locations throughout the Crowl, according to Katz. "Combined, there were hundreds of responses," she says. "None of them on paper stuck on the wooden seeds."

Some artists actively collected

opinions and ideas regarding the future of the South End. Standley and Ziegand say they were under the impression that this information would be incorporated in the planBTV South End draft plan. However, Katz says the goal was to build awareness and engagement, not to gather data. All of the networks, she adds, were shared with the consulting team from Boston-based Gossy Cloney, which the city hired in fall 2015 to facilitate public participation in the planBTV process.

BCA also funded a documentation of the artists' projects. **ANDREA BRAYTON** has been compiling video footage this year and is building a website to showcase the work. "It'll be a good representation of all the placemaking practices that happen here," says Katz.

Though the grant period ended in November, one last project is still in progress. Urban designer **JULIE CAMPBELL** and architect **JOHN ALVARADO** will collaborate with other designers and artists "to develop a vision of a denser, multi-story urban center district whose form and public spaces express the idiosyncratic culture of the artists and businesses who inhabit it," according to Campbell.

The description is a mouthful, but reenvisioning an entire section of Burlington is no small task. Campbell and Alvarado will develop their design ideas over the winter and early spring. Meanwhile, interested citizens can find out more about the artists' projects and track the progress of planBTV on the city's website. ☐

INFO

Learn more at burlingtonvt.gov/planbvtv.

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1/26 TU

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1/29 FR

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1/23 SA

BILLY CHILDS

Reopening: Lasta Nya Flynn MainStage

1/29 FR

BLACK ANGELS OVER TUSKEGEE

Flynn MainStage

1/23 SA

BURLINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

UNM Festival Hall

1/30 SA

MASTERWORKS

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1/24 SU

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ON SALE AND COMING SOON

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Dear Cecil,

If humans were to die out tomorrow, how long would it take for nature to take over and overgrow most traces of our existence? After, like, 10,000 years, would you have to undertake an archaeological dig to find evidence of us, or would parts of major cities still be standing and distinguishable?

Jim Huff



Why not take it a step further? What if humans never existed at all? As the Republican primary race drags on, I can't say it's not an alarming proposition, and — helpfully — one that was broached this year by researchers at Denmark's Aarhus University. They came to the fairly obvious conclusion that, sans *Homo sapiens*, the rest of the world's fauna would be a hell of a lot better off — so much so that most continents would resemble Africa in the diversity of their mammal populations. In a human-free world, the authors imagine, not only wolves and bears but elephants and rhinos would right now be roaming northern Russia.

Also, we have to work with the facts we've got, namely: (1) We exist on earth, and (2) in order we might not — whether by disease or nuclear winter, or because we've defiled this rock for use that's not yet totally tested. For the sake of your question, though, let's imagine

we simply vanished — a kind of nondescript extinction.

As it happens, such a scenario was entertained by the journalist Alex Weisman in his 2007 book *The World Without Us*. Weisman's account was apparently seductive enough that it inspired not one but two documentary franchises: the History Channel series "Life After People" and National Geographic Channel's *Aftermath: Population Zero*. Granted, that latter tale carries a real whiff of basic cable cheese, but Weisman's is sleek. Working from interviews with botanists, structural engineers, art conservators, et al., he credibly predicts what might happen in cities and landscapes abandoned would lead to notably dramatic results — think oil refineries and nuclear reactors.

A particularly vivid passage gives the play-by-play in New York City. How quickly would urban infrastructure go to shit in a rupture scenario? Very,

very quickly. "After we're gone, nature's revenge for our stupid, mechanized superiority arrives waterborne," Weisman writes. In New York's case, it comes from below. With no one to operate the pumps that keep water out of the subway tunnels, the system finds itself inundated in "no more than a couple of days" (Department 5-day goes as a taste of what this might look like). As the water rises toward ground level, it eats away at the soil, within 20 years the streets collapse, becoming rivers. Pipes burst, gas lines ignite — your standard post-apocalyptic hellscapes. Within 50 years, their foundations scoured out by water, skyscrapers start to filter and crumble. It's another few centuries before trees really re-colonize the place. (Interestingly, the animals that don't make it are ones that adapted too well to human dominance, including several species felled for their supposed indomesticability: cougars, which can't handle northern winters without hibernating and rots, which can't replace

the caloric value of a million tons of garbage.)

But you're thinking on a bigger scale than this, Jim. Here are the headlines:

- Debris in high Earth orbit stays there for more than a century.
- Suspension bridges collapse within 300 years; other, better designs might hold up for a millennium.
- In cities like New York, the most durable structures will be stone walls, like those of St. Paul's Church; Weisman sees them lasting "thousands of years."

Meanwhile, the estimated erosion rate at Mount Rushmore is just one inch per 10,000 years. From this, Weisman extrapolates that we can expect parts of it to remain recognizable for about 7.5 million years.

In 10,000 years, then, a visitor surveying the Earth's surface will find it largely reformed, with stone ruins here and there indicating the former presence of human life. How long 'til those are gone, too? Here's where Weisman and another scientist who's written on the subject — astrophysicist Marybel Volin, of India's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research — diverge. Volin

suggests that stone and metal building materials will hang on "for tens of thousands of years," while Weisman figures "at least" even's still standing in 20,000 or so years will be erased by another ice age.

What's left then? PVC plastic and glass remain under the sea, ground to a powder. Wiring and plumbing, which show up as subterranean metal deposits. Heavy metals and nuclear materials like uranium and plutonium residues, whose half-lives vary from 24,000 years. You've heard of the *Archeopteryx*, I presume — the same geologists have proposed giving it our current geological *epoch*, so profoundly affected by humans. Epochs are denominated by identifiable shifts in the Earth's strata, the stratification is all the stuff that archaeologists will find as evidence of us, millions of years in the future, just as today's geologists find evidence of past glacialians. Of course, the likelihood of a coming ice age looks even dimmer now than it did back when Weisman wrote his book. We're not doing such a hot job keeping the atmosphere cool. But that's an existential problem for another day.

INFO

Is there something you *were* in *get straight*? Cecil Adams can deliver the Straight Dope on any topic. Send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 365 N. Green St., Chicago 60604.

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WTF?

Questions That Went by the Wayside

When I get a lot of queries from inquiring minds, I let our readers, every year. This column runs every other week, so that gives you 26 opportunities to answer them. (Or 25, given that we've squandered those on not answering any.) Of course, we lean toward questions that have a retrievable answer — as an elusive one for which the search itself is entertaining. We generally ignore questions to which we have already responded.

Some queries we have no business answering. We are not, for example, able to offer a medical opinion on that weird rash, or to investigate your alleged food poisoning at a local salad bar. We shy away from questions of a religious or mystical nature.

That leaves the WTF questions that have us stumped, are more about opinion than fact, or to which there isn't necessarily a single right answer. In this last column of 2015, we thought we'd give you a sampling of them, conveniently grouped in two popular categories.

If anyone has a clue, do let us know! Meanwhile, Happy New Year, and keep your questions coming!

Yo, Vermont?

"WTF is up with [Carroll] Graff and his supposed run for lieutenant governor? From my seat, it sure looks like someone screwed the pooch by time in advising him about the run. Even with his familial roots in Vermont, he still comes off as an Ivy League, highbrow, Hillary insider who wants to congeal his way into a major role in state government."

"What's up with the Lamoille Valley Ford guy who always yells in his radio spots on what sounds like blue-collar folks? ... He might have the largest radio mouth bag in the state, but the attitude on his ads always sounds like he's calling in from a third-world country."

"I am a native Vermonter (Burlington), and I lived in Burlington for 22 years. Upon moving to Burlington from Skutumpah in 1993, I immediately noticed a drop in the temperature: friendliness-wise. We had this conversation with others who have moved here both from in-state and out, that people who live in Burlington seem quite cold and standoffish and chilly."

"Over this last winter I moved to the Mad River Valley area, and the people here are very friendly. I don't think it's just a matter of small towns versus large towns, because I've talked to other people from large cities, and they feel the alienation upon moving here, too. I also don't think it's just native Vermonters or non-native Vermonters acting this way. What gives? Is Burlington some sort of weird, unique insider part of the country?"



"Why ban? the state closed Huntington Gorge to motorists, now that so many people have died there? Seems to me the gorge closes that means the legal definition of 'attractive nuisance.'"

"The State of Vermont wants you to replace faded license plates because they are fading where the numbers are. But what I understand is, you have to pay them if the plate isn't a special or low number and you prefer the same number! WTF? They messed up, why should we pay at all? It is their error. Make the plate supplier pick up the tab."

"I often hear neighbors, friends and Burlingtonians in general bemoaning and bawling about how unsafe it is to have a tree near their house — the thought being that if it fell on the house, it would hurt or possibly kill someone. Usually when someone is carping down an otherwise healthy tree, 'safety' is the excuse they use. So, WTF, how many people have actually been killed by trees in Vermont? Or injured? More specifically, how many people have been killed or injured in their own homes by a tree?"

"A few years back, around 2010-11, when fuel and diesel prices spiked, my truck dealer added a 'fuel service charge' to my bill. At the time it made sense, as everyone could see that the cost of fuel was driven upward at a rapid pace, and truck hauling obviously uses lots of fuel. But since then, fuel prices (including

diesel) have fallen to their lowest levels in a decade. Yet the 'fuel service charge' remains, and my truck dealer refuses to remove the add-on. WTF?"

"I live in Waterbury, and I fail to understand why it is necessary to have up to five or six sheriff's patrol cars with lights on all day, sitting on their asses at different locations. The worst one outside Shaw's supermarket. It feels like we as drivers are in jeopardy, and we have to be watched. What a waste. Thank you."

"What's up with the diamonds painted on the doors of lots of firms here out in Jericho and Underhill?"

"How is it possible that Vermont only has one area code — our beloved 802? WTF? Are there any other states with just one area code? How do they determine how many area codes are needed in a state or area? And, perhaps most pressing: Will there ever come a day when Vermont has to add a new area code (904)?"

More From the Road

"Right by Huntington Ford on Shelburne Road, there is a 40-mile-per-hour sign, followed by a sign about 10 yards away stating that traffic lights sync up at 30 miles per hour. What's up with that?"

"WTF is up with the white and purple Runbus 2000 bus seen around Essex? [It] has the Deathly Hallows symbol on the back and other Harry Potter references" (Note: The writer is presumably referring to Runbus 2000, Harry's racing broomstick. We tried to track down that vehicle, to no avail.)

"Why are there a bunch of 'Distance to' signs between White River Junction and Montpelier giving the distance to both Montpelier and Burns — which are basically next to each other — and the distance to Burlington is not given? I mean, Montpelier is the capital, but why not Montpelier and BTV?"

"Picture a four-way (or more) intersection where you are facing oncoming traffic. You might even have dedicated left- (and right-) hand turn lanes, but when the signal turns, you only have a green light, no arrows. But the traffic in the oncoming direction is being held by a red light! How are you to know, unless you are familiar with the intersection? Two prominent examples are the Main Street/Pearl Street intersection at Time Corners in Essex Junction and the Route 25/Townes Road intersection at Essex Centre."

[From last winter] "Why does it seem that Interstate 89 and many of the roads in Vermont are often in such bad shape in the winter? WTF? Don't we know when its gonna snow up here? They heard lots of people say that when they cross the border into Vermont, on any number of roads, the conditions instantly get worse. I've noticed this myself!"

Contact: pamelk@vermontpost.com

INFO

Delighted or merely curious about something I send your burning question to WTF@vermontpost.com

Name Game 2015

Monikers that fit the bearer: Are they coincidences or self-fulfilling prophecies? BY KEN PICARD

By now, most of our readers are familiar with the phenomenon of — if not the name, at least the concept — of aptonyms: names that seem innocently suited to their bearers' professions, pursuits or extracurricular activities. Collecting them over 12 months of news and listing them in *Seven Days*' year-end issue has been a tradition for the past eight years.

None of this year's examples could beat the 2004 aptonym of the year **CONNORSON**, the 63-year-old Canadian man arrested for repeatedly flash-

ing visitors in Niagara's Bay Park in Ottawa.

CULTURE

Still, we can report that on March 25 of this year, police pegged 53-year-old **CONNORSON** back of Gresham, Ore., for masturbating, naked, in the vicinity of Tackle Creek.

2015 offered some other potential winners. On February 28, **WES WASSING**, a 39-year-old from Dorset, Vt., crashed his car into a house in Rupert while fleeing a state trooper who had tried to pull him over for speeding. According to police, **WASSING** dove through an intersection and struck a fence before hitting the house and barely missing the homeowner sitting inside.

And then there is **CHANCE GROSS**. The 40-year-old East Corinth woman was convicted in September on two misdemeanor counts of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. **GROSS** was charged with spending more than \$40,000 of the person's income and savings for her own personal benefit. **GROSS** misconduct, indeed.

In a year when the country's prodigious stockpile of firearms seemed to make headlines daily, this year's winning aptonym belongs to a canine mascot. The chocolate Labrador retriever in North Webster, Ind., shot its owner, **ALLIE GARRA**, in the butt by stepping on her 12-gauge shotgun during an October hunting trip.

The aptonyms run-and-rip of 2015 include:



CONNORSON Master stone wall builder in Scarborough.

WASSING Vendor and sponsor contact for the Emerald Cup, a competition held annually in northern California among outdoor medical marijuana growers.

GROSS Vermont veterinarian.

WASSING U.S. Census Bureau employee who complex election statistics.

GARRA Pesticide toxicologist for the Monsanto Company in St. Louis, Mo.

TRIGGER Master sommelier and senior director of national beverage programs at San Francisco-based Knapton Hotel & Restaurants.

WASSING Music teacher at Union Elementary School in Montpelier.

GROSS Drug abuse researcher at the University of Kentucky.

TRIGGER Urban landscape architect who designed Manhattan's High Line and Freshkills Park on Staten Island.

ANTI-APTRONYMS

JEREMY GATES: Twenty-eight-year-old Burlington man arrested on April 23 for an armed trespass in Southbury.

REAGAN GARDING: Former Montpelier resident arrested in November for allegedly murdering, dismembering and burning to death two dogs while a match took in court.

RAMONA LAR: Twentynine-year-old Alburgh man arrested by Vermont State Police trooper for violating five separate orders of court ordered conditions of release in pending criminal cases.

KEITH KIRKMAN: Thirty-three-year-old South Hero man who, after pleading to, pleaded with the car on the road on the Interstate River Highway. Despite his plea, he was arrested for suspicion of driving while under the influence of drugs.

BLAKE LINDSEY: Twenty-nine-year-old Burlington resident arrested August 20 after police say he punched a nearby member several times then struck the individual with a stool and a baseball bat.

TIMMY PRICE: Liquor purchasing and merchandising chef for the Vermont Department of Liquor Control.

EMILY FARR: Director of customer service at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont.

DAN ARDRE: Founder of the Windsor Hill Gunite League at Champlain Lakes (also Seven Days' online editor).

RAE MARR: Bellshire great-grandmother and international track-and-field star who holds numerous world records in her age category 50s & 60s.

HELMUTH FOWLE: Conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont.

JONATHAN GOLDHAMER: Bellshire manager, Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity.

DAN PRICE: Founder and CEO of Seattle-based Gravity Payments, a business credit-card processing service. In April, Price took a 50 percent pay cut to raise the salaries of all his employees to at least \$70,000 per year. Business is now booming.

REV. JAMES WITTE: Wiscasset chaplain at the maximum-security Wiscasset Correctional Institution in Wiscasset, Wis.

WILLIAM LINDSEY: Nineteen-year-old Rutland man arrested on March 18 in Burlington for trafficking approximately 660 grams of heroin worth an estimated \$12,000.

MATTHEW ECHOLS: Twenty-six-year-old St. Albans man arrested on February 5 for possession of stolen property.

CARA JOY: Organizer for One Taste Burlington's Organic Medicine group.

DAVID PATRICK BOULET: Former pastor of St. Cecilia Parish on Beechbridge Island, Wash.

ALICE HILMARSEN: Coauthor of the purportedly nonfictional *The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven*, who later confessed that he'd made up the entire story.

WILL DRISCOLL: Burlington man arrested late last year on five felony counts of possessing child pornography (5).

Contact: ken@vermontreport.com

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ANNEE GREEN: Certification specialist for Vermont Organic Farmers.

TANYA HARRIS: Organizer for the Satana Temple's Orange County, Fla., chapter, which tried to hand out condoms coloring books to students. The move prompted an Orlando school district to ban the distribution of religious materials from all outside organizations.

EDWARD CHAMBERLAIN: Brooklyn, Ont., truck driver who on July 6 rolled his tractor-trailer truck filled with cornmeal at VT Route 76 and Rice Hill Road in Shelburne.

BOB HATHWAYBINE: Director of the plastic pink flamingos, who died in June at the age of 79.

JASON BARR: Vice president of sales and marketing at Vermont Teddy Bear in Shelburne.

THOMAS BACON: Nineteen-year-old Madison, N.J., man charged with assault after he beat up someone with a baseball bat while on a break from working at the house. As an article in USA Today aptly noted, "It was not clear how the two men were linked."

SHARON MILLER: Director of the baking education center at King Arthur Flour in Norwich.

Life Stories

Remembering Vermonters who died in 2015

BY SEVEN DAYS STAFF

When former lieutenant governor Barbara Stedding died on November 2, every major media outlet in Vermont — and the *Sister State* — noted her passing. Legendary University of Vermont debate director Alfred “Tuna” Snider, who died in December, was memorialized on State and in the *New York Times*. Chef and restaurateur Michel Mohr’s death spawned numerous articles and commentaries documenting his culinary legacy — including one just a few weeks ago in *Seven Days*.

But most of the thousands of Vermonters who died this year were memorialized by a smaller circle of friends and family. Notices of their deaths often appeared only in obituaries, which hinted at fascinating lives and made us want to know more about them.

For our last issue of the year, *Seven Days* chose seven of these individuals to profile — because of how they lived, or because of how they died. A professor, a poet, a devoted hiker, a refugee — all of these people contributed in various ways to the rich cultural and civil fabric of this state, and left an indelible mark on the lives of those they left behind.

In sharing their stories, we aim to honor the memories of those who died, and to deepen readers’ understanding of the diverse and extraordinary array of people who call Vermont home. ☐

“The woods were his temple”

Donald Hovey Hill, 1927-2015

Donald Hovey Hill of Benning was a “man of letters,” though not in the traditional sense of the term. For 38 years, he owned and operated North Greenbury, a small commercial print shop in St. Albans that introduced him to almost everyone in the community. Hill, who died New Year’s Day at 82, was also a poet whose verses were often inspired by and written during his many outings in the Green Mountains.

But his most enduring legacy may be that he etched an image along the Long Trail: A life-long hiker and hiker of the Green Mountain Club’s Northern Frontier chapter, Hill hiked the trail from end to end. He also sewed his own sleeping bags, boots, vests and parkas on a foot-tread sewing machine, and even carved his own tools for pinning blankets and clearing brush while he walked.

As his son, Christopher, put it, “He was the finest putterer I’ve ever seen.”

Hill, Don’s wife, called her husband “Mr. Route 2.” He was born in his childhood home on Route 7 — Main Street in St. Albans — and attended Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans on Route 2, too. Upon returning there,

serving in World War II, he attended Middlebury College before studying art, printing and typesetting at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Hill and Don married in 1974, after his first wife, Josephine “Jo” Dodge, died in a tragic bicycle accident in 1971. Dodge described Hill as a “Renaissance man” with diverse interests and abilities.

His son harmonized with the Champlain Orchestra and the Cloud Monkeys. He was a talented dancer, an avid birder, and lover of jazz, opera and classical music. He was also a woodworker, antique car buff and map collector, and could recite lengthy poems by heart, especially those of Robert Frost.

“Even up to the very end, he was still remembering something, writing something, reading something, listening to something,” says Pooley.

An Hill told photographers Bobbie Fleck and Jane Williams in a 2008 documentary, he formally got into hiking after taking Christopher backpacking near Lowell one Friday evening in 1965. Though the two spent a miserable two-week night in a shelter seeking out clematis, “I got the [hiking] bug right there, and my son did, too,” he says in

the film. Hill joined the GMC after the trip and remained an active member until he died, maintaining trail logs, creating signs and marking trails.

Hill also told hikers where to “go” in another sense. Anyone who’s ever sought relief along the Long Trail owes Hill a debt of gratitude for the many outcrops he constructed. So impressive were his Long Trail contributions that, in 1999, the GMC dedicated the Spruce Lodge Group near Eden to his honor. As Christopher recalls, “It was one of the only times I ever saw my father speechless.”

Clearly, though Hill enjoyed the company of others, he also relished being alone, often hiking before dawn and returning after dark. Once, he slept outdoors in near-25-degree weather — an extreme feat before the expedition ended.

In 1989, a near-fatal accident in the woods severely curtailed Hill’s hiking abilities. While he was cutting corn with a friend, a wildfire raged — a tree top arched that drops when a tree is killed — crushed three of his vertebrae and severely burned his lungs.

Still, Hill remained undaunted. Unable to hike as much, he took up boating. He even built his own kayak and

once, then paddled Lake Champlain end to end.

Hill was eventually diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. Though one’s lifespan with the condition is typically short, Hill lived another 30 years before a finally robbed him of his life.

At Hill’s memorial service last January, Emerson Lynn, publisher of the *St. Albans Messenger*, remembered his longtime friend and neighbor as a man gifted with an economy of words and power of persuasion. As Lynn put it, Hill “had the incredible ability to write a letter to the editor and say in 30 words what I could not say in 30 times the space.”

Yet Hill also listened more than he spoke, Lynn added, and revelled in nature’s quiet solitude.

“The woods were his temple,” Lynn added. “He sought a life with meaning, something not measured in terms. I know few who could be any less materialistic than Don. He achieved that in ways that showed a strong mind and an unshakable spirit. He managed to do this through to his last breath.”

Hill drew that last breath eight miles from where he was born — at, as he might have put it, a short walk home.

KEN PICARD



HE WAS
THE FINEST
PUTTER I'VE
EVER SEEN.

CHRISTOPHER HILL

"She was just straight up out there"

Sandra Elise Solomon, 1948-2015

Sandra Solomon stood out. Visually it was impossible for her not to — she was a black woman in one of the whitest states in the nation, and she had a rare genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis that covered her body in tumors.

But Solomon, an accomplished scholar, left an impression on people for other reasons. Rather than ignore people's reactions to her, she studied them. She had a PhD in psychology and, as a professor at the University of Vermont, but she often focused her research on people who possessed what she referred to as "physical differences."

Some of her papers addressed people like her — "visually distinct" women from ethnic minority groups. She also spent years — and, with a colleague, received more than \$3 million in grant funding — researching the impacts of stigma on HIV-positive people in rural areas. She studied how nondisabled people drew conclusions about the social skills of people with disabilities. And she examined how wars affect the self-esteem of bereaved sons.

The line goes on: When her sister, Fredericks, was cleaning out Solomon's books in Colchester, she found "reams and reams of papers," which included interviews with people whose "distinctions" ranged from amputations to stigmata.

According to Solomon's colleague, Larry Rudiger, she didn't just study stigma — she advocated for those who

faced it. "She was devoted to making UVM as good as it can be," recalls Rudiger, a senior lecturer of psychological science who first met Solomon when they were both graduate students at UVM.

Among other points, she chaired the committee that revised the university's diversity curriculum, and she directed the Fall Institute on Racism, Intercultural Issues and Oppression. Solomon also went out of her way to mentor students of color and students with disabilities.

After efforts are funded beyond the university, too — she served on the board of the Vermont People With AIDS Coalition and led the state chapter of the Children's Turner Foundation.

Describing her as a "big, big person" — Solomon was 6-foot-11 — Rudiger also mentions that she "dressed like a million bucks."

"She had a tremendous amount of poise and grace," recalls Jill Ahlbeck, who met Solomon through Buddhist meditation, which Solomon practiced for roughly 30 years.

Born in the Brooks River House — also known as the Brooks — to Episcopal Protestant parents from the Virgin Islands, Solomon wasn't always so comfortable in her own skin.

Fredericks, who is five years younger,

said they both attended large New York public schools, and she remembers her older sister as quiet and reserved — a "remarkably smart" introvert who drew herself into her schoolwork. "She walked early on the way to going to fly by on looks and a cute personality."

The tumors caused by Solomon's neurofibromatosis started to proliferate around puberty. "She always wore long-sleeved blouses. It didn't matter how hot it was, she really felt it was her burden to protect the world from her differences."

Fredericks recalls. At around the same age, they moved to Riverdale — at that time an almost entirely white community.

The tumors increased as Solomon got older, but during her twenties, she began to overcome her shyness. Fredericks says, noting, "Something changed remarkably." Eventually, "she was just straight up out there."

After graduating from Long Island University, Solomon got a job as a lab assistant in New York, studying liver disease. She doubled back as a postdoc in the lab, according to Fredericks, and her desire to be around people ultimately led her back to school to study psychology. After getting a master's from New York University, she came to Burlington to complete her PhD at UVM.

SHE WAS DEVOTED TO MAKING UVM AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE.

LARRY RUDIGER



Solomon remained a city girl at heart — "She never bought a proper pair of boots," Fredericks notes — but she loved Vermont and had been planning to build a house on land she owned in Gates. Solomon never married and didn't have children. If she had, they would have had a 50 percent chance of inheriting her genetic disorder.

Last June, Solomon was diagnosed with cancer. A tumor on her spine made it difficult for her to walk, and radiation failed to help. It's unclear whether cancer shortened her life.

Solomon died on September 13, at age 66. Ahlbeck spent many days by her hospital bed. She says Solomon approached the illness with the same dignity and courage she had demonstrated throughout her life.

Ahlbeck is considering publishing one final work that Solomon left behind: a children's book titled *The Owl and the Dreamer*. Ahlbeck interprets her friend's story about a lonely owl who befriends a streamer, as a parable. The lesson: Accept who you are.

ALICIA FREER

"He knew how to be cool"

Zachary Wade "Creature" Nicholson, 1984-2015

It's never easy for skateboarders in small towns, unglamorous Vermont to find places to ride. Growing up in Watford, Zachary Nicholson and his buddies were often forced to retreat to his room's basement to skate.

That is, until they banded together and convinced local officials to let them convert the movie ice rink into a skating park in the warm months. The group built and installed ramps and jumps, and dubbed the place the "Skatopia." It wasn't the last skate park Nicholson helped build in Vermont.

"Anything to be around skateboarding and skate parks was good enough for him," recalls Nicholson's lifelong best friend, Jean-Luc Minoret.

Minoret, who was two years older, gave Nicholson his first skateboard

within a year of the natural athlete was a better skier than Minoret and almost anyone in town.

As a kid, Nicholson often wore T-shirts drawn skateboards under Creature. Some friends started using it as his nickname. It stuck, forever — almost, everything Nicholson owned as an adult was plastered in Creature stickers.

Born in Colchester, Nicholson moved to Watford with his parents when he was 6 years old.

He made friends easily. When he was just in second grade, the fifth graders wanted to hang out with him. "It was insane to him, he knew how to be cool," his mother, Marsha Nicholson Van Leuzen, says. "He was just a lot of fun."

She remembered skating and



snowboarding with him and his buddies — he'd whoop and laugh as he careered down the mountains at Sugarbush Resort and Mad River Glen.

Nicholson also had a quiet, soulful side.

His bedroom was the closest to the front door. Seeing himself as his mother and younger sister's protector, he kept

a baseball bat by his door, ready to fight off any intruders. Nicholson was also a serious reader. As a kid, he went for sci-fi and detective stories. As an adult, he dabbled in Chinese literature.

Nicholson was famous for big, enthusiastic hugs, which he would dole out without discrimination. His made friends easily as an adult, too. Women, his mom says, liked his deep-blue eyes.

He rarely talked about the pain lurking behind them.

According to Van Leuzen, the trouble started when he was about 36 years old, when Nicholson and a friend suffered spine pain medications on the family's mother. It grew into a heroin addiction, which sent Nicholson on a decade-long journey of detoxing, rehabbing, cleaning up and relapsing. It claimed his life in January, when

LEE STOKER IN FEAR

the 39-year-old finally overcame inside his Wisconsin apartment.

Even among his close friends, Nicholson rarely talked about his struggles.

"He had a lot of pain in his life, and he never burdened anyone too much about it, even when we visit he had," Mataraz says. "He had a spirit that was unbelievable. He always found time to care, to look out for his friends and worry about everyone else when he probably should have been worried about himself."

Nicholson supported himself as a cook. He had stints at some of the highest-profile restaurants in the Washington area, including the Daily Planet, Mike, Ike, Bhaddar Tavern and Minsky Tavern Co.

When he was clean, he was a reliable worker.

Mataraz was the first chef at trendy Mike, Ike, which opened in Wisconsin in 2003. Nicholson would show up early and stay late to help Mataraz in the kitchen. Back at the apartment they shared, he and Mataraz would relax by cooking meals together. Nicholson dreamed of opening his own cafe one day.

He spent many weekends with his mother, either taking her around to various Washington restaurants — where staffers in white aprons greeted him warmly — or visiting her at her current home in Katonah, NY, to help with household projects.

"He always said it was payback and he needed to pay me back a lot," Van Lusenew remembers. "On his birthday, he said, 'You still love because of your Mom.'"

In his final months, Nicholson became an advocate and supporter for the effort to build a new state park in Washington, which opened in November. He never got a chance to see it.

On a winter afternoon last January, Van Lusenew came up to Washington for a visit. She and her son grabbed lunch at the Minsky Tavern. He was chatty and excited about his life.

"He seemed really good to me," Van Lusenew recalls. "He made me feel good, and we had some good laughs, and then we said goodbye."

Two days later, she was awoken by police pounding on her front door.

MARK DAVIS

"He left everything as it was"

Phal Bhattarai, 1927-2015

Moving to a new country is not the way many would choose to spend their old age. Indeed, Phal Bhattarai had not planned to spend his final years in the United States. He lived most of his life in his native Bhutan, then spent two decades in a refugee camp in Nepal before arriving in Vermont on July 18, 2012. He and seven family members were part of a group of more than 3,000 Bhutanese refugees who have been resettled in the Washington area.

Back in Bhutan, Bhattarai grew rice, corn and cardamom. His second son, Prem, shares details of that time through an interpreter — Bhattarai's grandson, also named Prem. Son Prem says his father had little time for leisure because he was always working. When he wasn't harvesting, he had to work on government construction projects, remember

his son. He'd be away for as long as 90 days, and he'd have to bring enough clothes and food supplies with him.

Bhattarai hadn't wanted to leave his farm in Gedu, in southern Bhutan. The Bhattarai family was among the tens of thousands of ethnic Nepalis who were stripped of their Bhutanese nationality and expelled from the country in the early 1990s after former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck implemented the "One Nation, One People" policy.

When the police came to their village and chased them out in 1992, the family didn't have time to pack anything other than some rice. Prem says his father, who was 65 years old at that time, "left so fast" for having to leave the house and farm that he had built. "He didn't get a chance to sell anything or harvest anything. He left everything as it was."

Life in the refugee camp was "horrible," remembers son Prem. They small, four-room hut was made of bamboo poles and plastic, with a thatched roof. The huts were built close together and often caught on fire. It was too hot during the summer and too cold during winter. The refugees received rationed food, which included brown rice, pumpkin, cabbage, potatoes and beans. There were few jobs in the camp, and they weren't allowed to leave to work, says Prem.

By the time the elder Bhattarai got to Vermont, he was very thin and ill. He didn't have much of an appetite and was diagnosed with a stomach ulcer. But he still enjoyed French fries from McDonald's, says granddaughter Pabari, Prem's sister.

When he needed to go to the hospital, Bhattarai was the one who took him there.

"My brother is always busy, and I was the only one who could help with the translation," she explains.

When the family was in Nepal they lived in different camps and she only saw him twice a year. But in Vermont,



But Bhattarai's ill health meant he couldn't go out often. Moreover, he didn't speak English. "During winter, he'd sit inside and watch Nepal shows on YouTube. That's all," Bhattarai says.

On September 12, Bhattarai, 88, suffered a stroke. It was hours before he received medical attention. The elder Prem didn't know the symptoms and thought his father was just exhausted when he was unresponsive. The younger Prem says many people in the Bhutanese community "don't know about stroke" because it's something they never encountered in their home country.

After Bhattarai spent a night at the hospital, doctors told his family they couldn't do anything more for him. They advised the family to bring him home, where he died on the morning of September 22.

At Bhattarai's funeral, friends and relatives from North Carolina, New Hampshire, Ohio and Pennsylvania came to pay their respects. The younger Prem said he learned from the visitors about his grandfather's generosity. "When somebody came to his home in Bhutan, he didn't let those people go without food."

As per Hindu tradition, Bhattarai was cremated. His clothes were distributed among four children, all of whom now live in the US, and some clothes were cremated along with him. Son Prem, who works at Ruchira Clothing, chose to keep a coat. "He wore that from a long time ago," he says. "That's why I keep that."

KYIELLYA SARI



Pabari and Prem Bhattarai

Pabari quickly developed a "very close" bond with her grandfather.

He liked going to Lake Champlain, she recalls. "He wanted to see the boats. He wanted to be on one. We did go to Newburg," says Pabari.

Like most grandchildren, the 23-year-old first-year nursing student at Norwich University loves taking selfies — but mostly with her grandfather. She has countless photos of him smiling joyfully and wearing the shades he bought for him at University Mall. "People said to ask me, 'Why do you have your grandfather's pictures in your phone and on Facebook?'" she says with a laugh.

Grandson Prem would also bring him to a Calichester farm — Bhattarai missed being around animals.

"Very caring, would do anything for anybody"

Patricia Forgue, 1952-2015

Patricia Forgue was generous to the last. The Essex woman donated her organs when she died September 20, today someone is seeing through her eyes. The gift is even more poignant because Forgue never received the donation she needed: a heart.

Giving, not receiving, was the focus of the 63-year-old woman's life, says her husband of 40 years, Randy Forgue. "She was very caring, would do anything for anybody, and always smiling," he explains during an interview in the cozy Essex apartment they shared.

Pat and Randy's romance began at a local football game in 1975, when both were living in Connecticut. Some of the guys were talking the girls, says Randy, which wasn't very gentlemanly. "Her first impression of me was, I think I tickle her," he recalls with a chuckle. "With me, I think it was love at first sight."

Within a year they were married, and they soon made their way to Vermont. Randy's home state, he worked as a test engineer at IBM from 1976 to 2002. They lived in an old house on Main Street in Essex Junction, where they raised four children, before downsizing to an apartment a few years ago.

In addition to raising a large family, Pat worked in admissions at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and as a liaison consultant. She moved all of her children at a time when it

**WITH ME, I THINK
IT WAS LOVE AT
FIRST SIGHT.**

RANDY FORGUE

was considered unusual to do so. "Wendy Chan, a friend who first met Pat through the La Leche League, recalled her as deeply nurturing person. Her work on breastfeeding education with new moms was a natural extension of her going, warm personality."

"She was just so kind and gentle and always loved the babies and wanted to support mothers to fully blossom," Chan says.

When her children were small, Pat volunteered at Haverthill Elementary School. She also volunteered in the nursery school at the First Congregational Church in Essex Junction, made Christmas stockings for all her relatives and made



her age-old fudge — not too hard, not too soft — for the many people she cared about. "She was really funny," remembers Randy. "She wouldn't give anything unless it was just right."

In the late 1990s, Pat began experiencing heart problems. Doctors installed a pacemaker in 1999. A year later when she was 61, they diagnosed her with congestive heart failure.

Doctors raised the possibility of a heart transplant in 2006, Randy says, but Pat hesitated. "She realized that somebody would have to die to give her a transplant," he says.

Her condition worsened. When she was 66 in 2002, her doctors told Pat she needed a new heart to survive. After a round of tests, she was placed on the heart transplant list at Tufts Medical Center

in Boston. She was told it could take a year or more to move up the list.

Doctors installed a heart pump so Pat could survive as she waited. But complications ensued that almost killed her. After 21 days in a coma, she miraculously came to. "She could only wiggle her left leg toe, she was pretty much paralyzed," says Randy, who left his job to care for his wife.

Pat made progress and was able to move around with a walker. "We both were really thinking she could get home," her husband recalls. But, due to her weakened state, Pat was taken off the active transplant list after two

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"A way of looking at the world that was pretty intense"

Ann Jean Thomas, 1926-2015

Boundless curiosity fueled Ann Thomas' worldly and cerebral life. The Woodstock resident's travels spanned three continents and brought her into contact with prominent 20th-century literary and cultural figures. Her interests varied widely, as well — from writing poetry to researching the use of lithium in treating manic depression, an illness she struggled with to varying degrees for most of her life.

Thomas "had a way of looking at the world that was pretty intense," says her daughter Charlotte Latham.

Charlotte spoke with Steven Gryn at StackleheadThomas, a handmade furniture and ceramics company in Bridgewater, founded by her sister Miranda Stacklehead and Miranda's husband, Charles. Both sisters live nearby and work for the company. Miranda is co-owner and master potter; Charlotte is business manager.

To hear the sisters tell their mother's many stories is to be captivated by a

woman who was, in many ways, larger than life.

Thomas — "Buzzy" to her friends and family — was born in London, England, in 1926 to Ben and Arthur J. Davis, RA. Her father was a prominent architect known for designing London's Ritz Hotel, as well as ocean liners including the Queen Mary. An archive of his work — completed by Thomas in 2010 — is housed at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London's Victoria and Albert Museum. When she was just 16 years old, Thomas began studies at Oxford's Lady Margaret Hall, where she crossed paths with writers C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

"Ann was really taken by C.S. Lewis," explains Miranda. On the other hand, "she was always very rude about Tolkien because she did not like him — because he did not like women." Thomas was allegedly part of a group of female students who would stand outside meetings of the Inklings, an all-male literary discussion group that included both Lewis and Tolkien, gleefully whispering ideas could be overheard.

Ann and husband David, whom Miranda says her mother described as "a dashing young royal officer," married in 1952. They subsequently moved to Boston, where David studied at Harvard Business School and Thomas worked at the Radcliffe College Library. There she helped to administer the university's summer school under the direction of Harry Kesteven (later a U.S. secretary of state) and encountered poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes.

Like Plath, Thomas was no stranger to despair. After her son Toby was born, Thomas experienced severe postpartum depression, and her emerging mental health struggle intensified in the '60s, the family moved to New York City. "My father worked hard to find the best research paper for manic depression," Miranda explains.

Thomas was one of the first patients prescribed lithium by psychiatrist Ronald Pavey at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, and she became a medical researcher in her own right. "She got really interested in her own illness," Miranda recalls. In addition to taking lithium, now widely recognized

Stress Hat
by Ann Jean Thomas

Through
the holes
in my stress hat
I see the Sunday

I see as
a bee's eyes sees
corn of honey light
multiply endlessly

Then
everything
has gone
for a millionth of a cold

as
those eyes
are eclipsed
by a passing cloud



as being an effective inhibitor for manic patients, Thomas underwent multiple electric-shock therapy treatments.

Even outside of the academy, Thomas remained a scholar. "She always had about seven decks piled high with photos and papers," daughter Charlotte remembers. For example, Thomas fervently pursued the hypothesis that the virus killed during the Salem witch trials were victims of ergotism, a condition caused by consuming wheat and other cereals affected by a poisonous fungal disease.

While David Thomas worked in advertising, the family traveled extensively. From 1971 to 1980, they lived in Sydney, Australia. Thomas was fascinated by the art and lives of the country's Aboriginal community and she collected many bark paintings and artifacts — three of which she donated to the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College in 2006 for its exhibition "Discovering Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters."

Senior curator Katherine Hart describes Thomas as "a person who had a great deal of respect for those objects, and a great deal of sensitivity for objects in general. She really thought of them as almost sentient in some ways."

Indeed, Miranda describes her mother as "very spiritual." Thomas' love of the

natural world is revealed in her poetry, which she began writing at age 6. She gave her daughters personalized poems on their birthdays and other momentous occasions throughout their lives; the published her own, too — her work appeared in *Griffid Poetry*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Ward*, among other publications. Her first collection, *A Sign House*, came out in 1996. In 2013 Thomas published *At Summer's Aisle*, a poetry selection with simple illustrations by Miranda.

Ann and David moved to Woodstock in 1960 from Somerville, Mass., to be near their daughters. In November 2014, family and friends gathered at Woodstock's public library for a special reading. Each person was given one of Thomas' poems, which were read aloud in the order she had written them.

Thomas died at home in July from complications of cardiac arrest. She was 88. In addition to her daughters, she is survived by her husband, David, and sons, Mark and Toby, as well as seven grandchildren.

Though Thomas was a scholar, explorer, patient, artist and mother, Miranda asserts, "She was a poet more than anything."

RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

Life Stories

OPINION

years and told the world need to go through another round of tests to get back on.

She was reluctant to endure the ordeal. The question became moot in September 2014 when a cerebral hemorrhage at home and later died at the UVM Medical Center. When doctors asked about organ donation, Randy said yes.

"She wanted to give her organs if something happened to her," he says.

Doctors could not use Pat's heart, lungs or kidneys because of her health issues. They could use her eyes and tissue, though, and notified Randy with a letter that her organs have been successfully transplanted. Her gift has inspired him to follow suit when the time comes.

"I probably would do the same thing. Not probably. I will do the same thing," he says. "I'm sure."

NOLLY MALLEN

"An amazing ability to connect with people"

Benjamin Donald Wood-Lewis, 1999-2015

Teens who treasured clothes and make friends with everyone are a rarity. Ben Wood-Lewis was one of them.

"Ben was the coolest kid in town," remembers his friend and former classmate Joshua Schicht. "Nobody disliked him."

His father, Michael Wood-Lewis, agrees that Ben "had kind of an amazing ability to connect with people."

That was even more remarkable given that he couldn't speak, walk or communicate on his own. Ben had cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder caused by brain damage. He had little control over his body. To navigate the world, he relied entirely on others — starting with his parents.

Michael and Valerie Wood-Lewis raised Ben, their first child, a day after he was born. He developed CP in the neonatal intensive care unit when he was two weeks old, due to high bilirubin levels brought on by jaundice. After 83 days in the hospital, the couple brought him home to their South End apartment. Remembers Michael, "I couldn't imagine how we were going to raise this child."

They had some help — Ben had a large team of medical professionals, including doctors, a respiratory therapist, occupational therapists, physical therapists, an assistive communication team, a palliative care team at Boston Children's Hospital and personal care assistants who were with him 24 hours a day. But the Wood-Lewises had recently moved from Washington, D.C., and they didn't yet have many friends nearby.

Valerie remembers bringing Ben to playgrounds, where she found compassion but not camaraderie. "What everyone else was talking about was not what we were talking about," she recalls.

Meanwhile, the tech company Michael had been working for had recently exploded. Conspicuously, his next move, he thought of a neighbor he had known growing up who had also had CP. The two became friends, while, Michael says, had a profound effect on his life.

He hoped his neighbors would develop similar friendships with his own son, but the co-ancestress Michael felt in his old neighborhood was missing in



his new one. That was partly why he and Valerie developed a line, besides local email newsletter service in 2009, and invited their neighbors to join. The email proved popular, and evolved into Front Porch Porino, an online community-building platform now used by 150,000 Vermonters statewide.

FPF wasn't just a business success. It helped the Wood-Lewises, who had had moved into a two-story house in Burlington's Five Sisters neighborhood, to meet their neighbors. Ben quickly won people over his accepted everyone without judgment and frequently flashed his unimpaired smile.

And he loved to play. Thanks to adaptive sports programs — and enthusiastic helpers — he was able to hike, surf, hike, paddle and wrestle on the floor.

His parents advocated for him every step of the way. That included prompting the school district to build a wheelchair ramp at Champlain Elementary, working with the Burlington Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase seats to make North Beach wheelchair accessible, and galvanizing an effort to install an elevator at Edwards Middle School, so that Ben could maintain the friendships he had developed at Champlain.

Those connections didn't just help Ben and others with mobility issues, says neighbor Patrick Halliday Hanson, Daniel, was in Ben's class from third



Public school classmates following Ben Wood-Lewis' class (Shirley Price in 2015)

through eighth grade. Both Daniel and his sister, Hannah, spoke at public meetings to advocate for the elevator. They learned about how government works and grappled with issues of inclusion, fairness and civic responsibility.

"Talk about a fantastic learning experience," Halliday recalls.

They did his stuff together, too. Halliday remembers Daniel's third-grade birthday party, which included skating at Cabot Park. "The kids were doing what they could to pull Ben up and down the hill," he remembers. "They're pulling him up, and he's falling down laughing."

Halliday, a former elementary school teacher who now works with the Vermont Agency of Education, says he's seen the dynamic at work in the classroom, too. Students learn valuable lessons from their peers with special needs, and often learn over helping a classmate.

On Ben's first Edwards Middle School field trip to Mount Phib, for example, his classmates spontaneously decided that he shouldn't miss the hike to the top. Rather than have a teacher drive him up, the kids pushed and pulled him themselves.

Josh Schicht went on a similar class trip a year later, when a teacher brought a cross-country ski harness and a rope, which the students attached to Ben's wheelchair. A group of 10 kids, including Josh, took turns helping him in the snow.

"We were moving at a pretty good

pace," Josh remembers. "It was hard but fun."

Because of Ben, Josh got involved in the Special Olympics unified team. He and Ben bowled, played basketball and did track and field together.

Josh says people recognized Ben everywhere he went. "Everybody in the room knew him," he says. "He was an incredible person."

Despite his CP, Ben wasn't a sick kid, say his parents. So it was a surprise when he struggled to recover from a planned July surgery to replace a medication pump in his back. His decline was likely due to the accumulated effect of seven CP on his body. After three weeks in intensive care at Boston Children's Hospital, Ben came home, but he was failing.

Over three days, friends and neighbors visited at the rate of "a hundred a day," says Michael, first to welcome Ben home, and then to say goodbye and create the flurry including Ben's younger siblings Maddy, Henry and Isaac. Ben died at home in August, surrounded by his family, a month shy of his 16th birthday.

His successful service at Burlington's First Unitarian Universalist Society drew hundreds of mourners, many of them his peers. A slide show of photos featured numerous group shots with a wide variety of pals.

"There are not many people who could cross groups like that," says Valerie. "He was a bridge builder."

CATHY RESHER

BEN WAS THE COOLEST KID IN TOWN.

JOSHUA SCHICHT

Fare Thee Well

2015's highs and lows in Vermont food and drink

BY HANNAH PALMER EGAN

Food writers want every restaurant to be exceptional. We crave delights, thoughtfully prepared food sourced from the best local farms and fishermen. We reason for service that's charming and professional but casual and fun, and for friendly bartenders who know what we're drinking before we do. We yearn for chefs who honor their own heritage and this glorious green place we live in, who pair creativity with tradition and have a skill set to match. We applaud those who aren't afraid to take risks.

Restaurants that achieve even half of those things with any consistency offer far more than just a decent supper. They supply an escape from the daily grind, providing us in pleasure for a few short hours before gently releasing us, happy and full.

A cheap neighborhood joint can fulfill those aims as well as — sometimes better than — a three-star shrine to gastronomy. Many restaurants could get to this level with a little polishing, but don't. That leaves food writers disappointed and often a bit cranky about the local dining scene, whether they live in New York City or San Francisco or Burlington. And, yes, I know this is a first-world problem and mine is a dream job.

But, glancing back over 2015, I'm kind of amazed by all the wonderful things that happened. Even though I spent untold hours seeking out the latest and greatest in Vermont food and drink, I know I missed many palate-pleasing delights. So, based on what I did see and taste, I offer this song of thanks to some of the restaurants, chefs and food artisans who made 2015 a sweet year to dine and drink in Vermont.



Marc Provencier

Best New Chef

Marc Provencier, *Savanna Khione, Shelburne*

Locals were sad when Cafe Shelburne closed after dinner on December 31, 2015. But by April, Maine chef Marc Provencier had installed a new Greek restaurant in the space. His cooking is rugged and traditional — no street-style falafel or gyro here.

Instead, Provencier's menu proceeds in degrees of approachability. A smoking feta dip, stained red with tomato and pepper, is fairly friendly, while turn-noodles — the fiber-filled carpas parais traditional on Greek tables — might be risky business for folks who don't grow up on anchovies or grilling fish.

Across the menu, elegant details enhance the basic proteins. During a midsummer meal, stewed sour cherries from Shelburne Orchard punctuated a juicy, red-wine-braised leg of lamb. Another night, Provencier's handmade Greek spaghetti was topped with nutty, brown-butter-fried Citrus pick cheese and accented with floral, fresh-garlic verbena. His flourelled lamb chops were magnificent in their funky, fork-tender simplicity.

While not every Savanna dish is perfect, most are fantastic. What's most exciting is the young chef's audacity in bringing something totally new to the area — and his ability to execute each meal with style to spare.

Best Menu Reinvention

Artislat, *Burlington*

Technically, chef George Lamberton took over for Artislat's weekly "kitchen collective" in November 2015. At that point, his menu was brief — a handful of fan favorites on classic pub fare, each



Mavis

AGE/SEX: 1-year-old
spayed female

REASON HERE:
Owner unable to care for

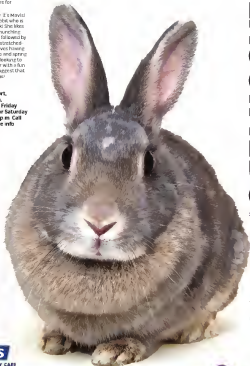
SUMMARY: Oh my. It's Mavis! Mavis is a young rabbit who is full of life and spunk! She likes to spend her days munching on hay and veggies followed by a nice and relaxing stretched-out nap! She also loves having lots of space to hop and spring around in! If you're looking to ring in the New Year with a fun new four-baller, we suggest that you meet, miss Mavis!

Visit me at HSCC,
142 Kindness Court,
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OFFICE/COMMERCIAL

MAIN STREET LANDSCAPE

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Experience as a server is preferred but not required. We will train applicants who demonstrate strong customer service skills and a desire to work with an active population of seniors.

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The Residence at Shelburne Bay
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Therapeutic Community

Human Resources Director

Cornwall

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HUB Clinician: Master's or bachelor's-level clinician position working with adults as a part of our HUB & Spoke medication-assisted therapy (MAT) program. This position will focus on access to care and provide a bridge from the MAT program to referrals to the treatment service options. Work will involve assessments, group and individual therapy, case management as well as coordination with the Department of Corrections. Previous experience working with people in recovery from addictions is preferable. A LISC is preferred. Working hours roughly 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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**Rachel Yeager, HR Coordinator,
Clara Martin Center
P.O. Box G
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or to: ryeager@claramartin.org**

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Apply online at careers.vermont.gov.

Psychiatric Nurse II - Ref. Form: Job Opening ID# 617611

For more information, please contact Karly Bushey at 802-255-6501 or karlybushey@vermont.gov.

To apply, you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources Recruitment Services at 802-255-6700 (voice) or 802-255-6191 (TDD/voice relay). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.



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Velan Value Corp seeks entry-level candidate for QC Document Administrator to work in conjunction with our QA/QC team. Duties at Administrators create QC documentation packages and provide customer support in conjunction with these packages, as well as schedule and provide support for customer-related inspections. Candidates must be proficient with Word, Excel and Outlook, have strong communication skills, and be able to work in a team environment. Experience desired but not mandatory.

Please submit resume with salary expectations to velan.personnel@velan.com

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pathwaysvermont.org/jobs.html

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

Alternative health care practice with locations in Northwest Kingdom and Montpelier area seeks committed member to join our team. Computer, office and communication skills required. Attention to detail, ability to multitask and assist patients in a professional manner is critical. Training in the Rutland area, 15 to 30 hours per week. Employment primarily in Montpelier area, 20 to 30 hours per week possible as a permanent position.

Send resume, anticipated salary range and cover letter to nathak@btvpubco.com.

PAYDATATM WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

PayData Workforce Solutions, Inc. is looking for an additional team member to join our Client Service Department as a

Payroll Processor/Client Service Representative.

Our Client Service Representatives work closely with our clients to produce accurate payrolls utilizing various import methods including data entry, Excel worksheets and time clock imports. The ability to perform multiple tasks efficiently and manage ongoing projects is necessary. Attention to detail is a must. Candidates must have prior payroll experience as well as customer service experience and possess strong communication and organizational skills. Candidates should also have proven troubleshooting skills and be able to adapt to new and changing technology. Our Client Service Representative works in a team environment and works off-site. Experience handling a large volume of telephone calls, as well as having strong number skills or prior page of experience, is required, working knowledge of the Avalara payroll software is desirable. Experience with Windows including Word, Excel and Outlook is required as well as strong keyboarding skills.

Apply online at paydata payroll.com/employment/careers/jobs/usa

FLYNN CENTER PERFORMING ARTS

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts seeks applicants for a part-time School Programs Coordinator to join our Educator team and be a part of northern New England's premier performing arts center.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

The School Programs Coordinator is responsible for arranging workshop and conference logistics with teachers and teaching artists, collecting, entering, and reporting on related data, grant tracking, assisting with the marketing and promotion of school programs, and providing support around our lead teachers and visiting artists in schools. The ideal candidate will have very strong organizational skills, the ability to work independently, grace in problem solving, and knowledge of schools and performing arts education.

For a detailed job description and more information, visit our website at:

flynncenter.org/about-us/employment-and-internship-opportunities.html.

Please submit application materials by January 8, 2016 to Flynn Center for the Performing Arts Human Resources Department
153 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
or email hresources@flynncenter.org.

No phone calls, please. EOE.



Developmental Services

Seeking, Shared Living Provider!

Seeking Shared Living Provider(s) to support a 25+ year-old man who enjoys comic books, movies and activities in the community. This individual is looking for a male provider(s) with strong boundaries, clear communication, and the ability to provide good supervision. Providers who can help maintain an active and healthy lifestyle are preferred. This would be an ideal opportunity for a para and professional(s) or graduate student(s) with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Hourly pay/wage/compensation: \$13.500 not for stated support.

Seeking female Shared Living Provider(s) to support a 18-year-old woman, and college student, who enjoys music, dancing and playing card games. This individual is looking for a skilled and personable provider who can provide support in the bathroom as well and continue to build independence. The right provider will have strong boundaries, clear communication and the ability to work as part of a larger team, and be able to provide on-going care and supervision. This would be an ideal opportunity for a professional or graduate student with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Compensation: \$30.000 to \$40.000 not for stated support.

All interested candidates please contact linda@howardcenter.org or call 488-8563.



We create multi-platform content marketing solutions powered Meredith Corporation brands including *EatingWell*, *Shape*, *Parents*, *Wootton.com*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and others.

Director, Health and Wellness Content Licensing Sales

Seeking experienced, results oriented salesperson to join our content licensing team. Position is responsible for strategic prospecting, proposal development, contracting and ongoing client relationship management. Your clients will be insurance and pharmaceutical companies, corporate wellness providers, tech companies, and other entities looking for content solutions to power their health-focused offerings, patient support and marketing and advocacy campaigns.

Java/Play/Scala Developer

Help build our content delivery software, social planning products, hosted client solutions and mobile services APIs. We use Java/Scala/Play/Spring, Nginx, Memcached, Jenkins, MongoDB, Elastic Search, MySQL, Mongo, git. Competitive compensation, cool work environment and staff lunches from *EatingWell* test kitchen.

Positions are located at *EatingWell* offices in Skelburne. Send resume and cover letter to: jobs@eatingwell.com. Go to eatingwell.com/jobs for more information.



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OPEN POSITIONS

Vermont Creamery, a small specialty creamery with 30 years of successful business, is now hiring for several positions as follows:

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Good starting wages based on experience. Benefit package includes medical insurance, retirement plan, vacations/sick holidays, training program and cheese privileges.

Mail or stop in for an application at:

Vermont Creamery
PO Box 95, 40 Pitman Road, Websterville, VT 05678
or apply online at jobs@vermontcreamery.com

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN

Retina Center of Vermont is seeking a friendly, motivated Ophthalmic Technician for a full-time position in our South Burlington office.

Qualifying technicians are responsible for patient intake using computerized health records, assisting in office and operating room procedures, and performing retinal image diagnostic testing. Technicians must be able to rotate on emergency call schedules due to the nature of the specialty. Professional certification is preferred but not necessary; some experience in ophthalmology is required.

Please submit a resume to Aaron Mitton,
amitton@retinacentervermont.com



Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.

Seeking staff committed to making a difference.

ADMINISTRATIVE

EMR Application, Training and Support Specialist: Responsible for electronic medical record system support, testing and troubleshooting. Prepares documentation and provide on site training and EMR help desk assistance. Assist with testing for upgrades, patches and other system enhancements. Minimum requirements: associate's degree or experience commensurate with education. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

EMR/Billing Associate: Maintain client information, submit claims, apply payments, and scan and release client records. Associate's degree plus one year of relevant experience or a combination of education and experience required. Attention to detail is a must. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

ADULT OUTPATIENT

Care Manager: Seeking a support worker who will provide psychosocial support services in the community to adult clients. Work closely with therapists and emergency team clinicians. Strong candidate will have knowledge of mental health issues, strong social support skills, excellent judgment and familiarity with community resources. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

Clinician: Seeking a Vermont-licensed MSW mental health professional with excellent clinical skills for a full-time benefit position. Provide outpatient psychotherapy primarily to adults on a short-term, long-term and/or intermittent basis. Primary program assignments will be providing clinical services to clients enrolled in our Adult Stabilization Crisis Program. LADC licenses is a plus. Strong assessment skills and a willingness to collaborate with a larger AOP team are critical.

Eldercare Clinician: Excellent opportunity for a passionate individual with MSW seeking to provide psychotherapy to clients for a wide range of mental health and substance abuse issues. Provide outreach services to homebound elders. Plan individualized treatment and consult with social service organizations, private therapists, physicians and other health care providers to coordinate treatment services. This position offers excellent supervision, flexibility and the opportunity to grow your clinical skills through training!

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Service Coordinator: To develop, implement and monitor supports for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. This position also develops and provides overall coordination for our community integration services. Excellent supervisory, organizational, interpersonal and communication skills required. Basic schedule is 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, but must be flexible to respond to emergency situations and some after-hours calls. BA in a human services field, good driving record and clean background checks necessary. Full-time with generous benefit package.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Outreach Clinician: Join our dynamic team of clinicians and work in homes, communities and schools with children, adolescents and families with emotional and behavioral challenges and developmental disorders. We're seeking creative thinkers for this rewarding position. Master's degree in a human services field, plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. This is a full-time, benefit eligible position.

School-Based Clinician: Provide in-school, direct counseling, behavioral and emotional support to children and adolescents in crisis, with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances. Master's degree in a human services field required, license preferred. Plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. Full-time and part-time positions available.

Student Assistance Professional: Interact with students, faculty and parents in local or local high school to raise awareness of substance abuse issues, utilizing prevention and counseling techniques to achieve this goal. Screening and some assessment and early intervention; referrals to appropriate care. Licensed substance abuse clinician or certification is an add-on to counselor or apprentice masters degree in counseling, social work or related field. This position is five days per week during the school year.

Youth Employment Case Manager: Seeking individual dedicated to making a difference in the lives of local youth. Join our JOBS team — Jump On Board for Success! In this role you will provide employment support services for young adults between the ages of 16 to 26 labeled severely emotionally disabled. Ideal candidates will be able to collaborate with resources inside and outside of the agency, assist with job development, long-term follow-up and provide specialized intake services. Bachelor's degree and two to four years relevant experience required.

**HOWARD
CENTER**
Help is here.**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES****Building Cleaning Services Manager**

Seeking a responsible person who is self-motivated to be our Building Cleaning Services Manager. This job is directly responsible for all cleaning needs throughout the agency's 60 sites. Besides working with BCS staff, this person oversees contracted cleaning, temporary workers, cleaning performed by program staff, and cleaning performed by clients. Must have strong and diverse supervisory skills and have the ability to communicate clearly, orally, diplomatically and in writing. The demands of this job require flexibility in work hours and the ability to handle multiple tasks. A strong background in commercial and institutional cleaning, and knowledge of both routine and complex cleaning is absolutely necessary. Job ID 2903

**MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

Are you concerned about the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our state? Want to work in a fast-paced environment with a multidisciplinary team of enthusiastic and caring professionals?

The Chittenden Clinic at Howard Center offers opportunities for employment and development across many disciplines, including immediate openings for **laboratory technicians, security, social work, and leadership.** Opportunities for growth/advancement. On our Careers website, enter search term: "Chittenden Clinic."

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**Autism Interventionist**

Join Howard Center to work full time with children ages 2-21 years with autism spectrum disorders. Provide ongoing behavioral intervention services in public schools, homes and community settings. Training and ongoing supervision provided. Excellent professional development opportunity. Transportation required. Bachelor's degree and some experience with children and/or special needs necessary. Job ID 1375

Clinician, School Services

Four positions available! All positions are school based mental health positions that act as liaisons between Howard Center and the school district served. Clinicians provide various mental health, consultation and case management services while utilizing a school based work model.

- Part time with K-5 students in Burlington, 24 hours/week at the Strattonville Academy (16 hours) and Champlain Elementary School (8 hours) in Burlington. Job ID 2908

- Full time with grades 5-12 in Milton, 40 hours/week at Milton High School. Job ID 2909
- Full time at Franklin's Elementary School in Essex, grades 3-5. Job ID 2910
- Part-time at Albert D. Lavroski Middle School in Essex Junction serving students in grades 6-8 (32 hours). Job ID 3008

Counselor, Family, IFBS

Do you enjoy working with families and providing on-house family mode? Interview Family Based Services (IFBS) is looking for a regular full time family counselor to provide short term (15 weeks) intensive in home treatment to families (five hours a week). The goal of IFBS is to prevent out of home placement due to mental health crisis, abuse, neglect or emotional disturbance. Experience required: working with families and children, crisis intervention, clinical assessment, team collaboration, strong written and communication skills. Knowledge of trauma, informed care and the impact of substance use/abuse on families is highly desirable. Some evening work is required and use of a personal vehicle is a must. Job ID 2995

Crisis Stabilization, Clinician, FCBS

Interviewed in first world! Howard Center is seeking an energetic, self-directed, per team (22.5 hours/week) clinician to join our team. Provide short term, in home family work to children and families experiencing crisis. This includes assessment, crisis stabilization, case management and timely documentation. This position is fast paced and involves some evening hours and use of a personal vehicle. The ideal candidate will be skilled in providing acute clinical assessment and be knowledgeable about community resources. Master's degree and 3-5 years of experience in children's mental health required. Significant exposure to trauma informed care and strong professional development opportunities are waiting for the right candidate. Job ID 3007

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**Intensive Community Support Worker, Floater, Adult and Family Floater**

Interview Community Support Workers provide community-based specialized one-on-one support and opportunities to multiple clients who possess a range of intellectual disabilities. *Personnel:* relationship building skills, and boundary setting are necessary skills for this position, in some instances you will work with more challenging behaviors. Other individuals may require assistance with personal care. Candidates must possess good judgment, independent decision-making, and crisis-management skills. At least three years of experience in human services, on a combination of education and experience from which acceptable knowledge and skill has been acquired. Knowledge and skills in documentation techniques strongly desired. Candidates must have a vehicle and driver's license. The schedule is 40 hours per week. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in the medical field, psychology or social work. Job ID 3009

For more information, please visit howardcentercareers.org.

Howard Center offers an excellent benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, as well as generous paid time off for all regular positions scheduled 20-plus-hours-per-week.

Applicants needing assistance or an accommodation in completing the online application should feel free to contact

Human Resources at 888-89918 or help@hwc.org



Our mission is to help children thrive by empowering families to break cycles of poverty, addiction and abuse. Lynd offers hope and opportunity to families through education, treatment, family support and adoption. Lynd offers competitive pay and paid training, extensive time off accrual, and 11 paid holidays per year as well as a full benefit package including health, dental, life and disability insurance and retirement for full-time employees. EEO/AA.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

FULL- AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Lynd's five-star accredited early childhood education program provides children with an environment that creates a love of learning. Teachers educate and promote positive social/emotional development in a play-based center practicing emergent curriculum. Join an incredible team that believes in laughter, the importance of fun, community-oriented activities and non-stop learning. Responsibilities include: love, nurture and respect every child as a unique individual; develop a positive relationship with parents and communicate with them on a daily basis; contribute ideas to weekly curriculum and monthly staff meetings; and provide a safe, clean and positive classroom environment. Lynd's Preschool is a collaborative and supportive team of educators and daily planning time is available. The right candidate will be passionate, inspired and committed to working with a dedicated group of professionals. Among many things, Lynd values imagination, curiosity, exploration and discovery. Bachelor's degree in early childhood education (or related field) and experience working with children and families required.

LEAD COUNSELOR

Full-time position working primarily 9am-5pm Monday through Friday, with one early evening shift weekly. Lead Counselor will provide parenting and life skill education and support as well as emotional assistance to pregnant and/or parenting women and their children in a transitional housing program. The Lead Counselor serves as primary weekly daytime representative for the program and acts as liaison for multiple other partner agencies interacting with the program and clients. Excellent opportunity to participate in a team approach to support young families and coordination of services and resources. Bachelor's degree in human services related field or five years relevant experience required. Ability to work both with a team and independently. Knowledge of community resources to support young families, and flexibility are a must. Solid attention to detail, ability to multi-task, and strong written and verbal communication skills required.

RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR

Evening, Weekend, and Awake Overnight Shifts. FULL- AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Counselors provide crucial parent education and life skill support to pregnant and parenting women and their children in a residential treatment setting. Shifts include evening, awake overnight and weekend hours. Ideal for those with alternative schedules and night owls. Minimum of Bachelor's degree in human services related field and experience providing care to young children, ability to multi-task, work in fast-paced environment, flexibility and adaptability needed. Looking for a candidate who is a quick problem solver and able to work independently during non-traditional hours. Experience working in residential treatment setting preferred. Valid driver's license required. Shift differential offered. Great opportunity to work with a strong team of professionals in a fun and fast-paced environment. Ongoing training opportunities available. Starting \$14-\$16 per hour plus shift differential for certain hours. Sub positions also available.

To apply, please submit cover letter and resume to:
Human Resources, PO Box 4004 Burlington, VT 05408-4008
fax: 864-9819 email: employment@lynd.org



CCS is a growing, not-for-profit human service organization with a strong emphasis on employee and consumer satisfaction.

Community Inclusion Facilitators

We are currently offering several benefited part-time positions supporting folks in the community and at their workplace. This is an excellent job for applicants entering human services as well as those looking to continue their work with people.

We would love to have you here during this exciting time of growth!

If you are interested in joining our supportive team and making an impact on the lives of others, send your letter of interest and resume to Karen Chichester at kchiche@ccs-vt.org.

Champlain Community Services
612 Troy Avenue
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 668-0821

ccs-vt.org

021

University of Vermont HEALTH NETWORK

Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital

HVAC Technician

With a new competitive salary package that includes health and welfare benefits, paid time off, continuing education incentives, employee discounts and more!

Requirements:

- High School diploma
- Vocational training in HVAC and refrigeration trades
- NYS driver's license
- 3-5 years experience in required trade is preferred
- Some experience with electrical heating preferred

Responsibilities:

- Daily maintenance on all assigned equipment
- Maintain pneumatic, electronic and electric controls
- Be on call on scheduled
- Install ductwork, refrigerant controls and related equipment
- Maintain equipment logs

Apply at UVMHealth.org/CVPHCareers

Recruiter post a free pull-out card centered form, where we will post your complete profile from and employers offering services will compare to our needs.

Not a recruiter? Submit your resume to: recruitment@uvmhealth.org or hr@uvmhealth.org or hr@uvmhealth.org



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Career Opportunities

Join Champlain Housing Trust's Property Management team in Burlington and serve the affordable housing needs of a diverse group of people.

TWO
POSITIONS

Resident Relations Coordinator

be responsible for several functions for the Property Management and Casualty Departments including processing staff applications and reports, carry out various administrative tasks, coordinate with the Property Management Staff Section, supervising resident's Customer Service requests by providing them with oral information, improving the application process, providing a Transfer Insurance Program, using the internet for better collection, etc. and ensuring of two consecutive months to reflect the new customer service approach. Two year degree in Business/Office Control, or equivalent work experience required. Along with excellent computer skills processing typing and spreadsheet programs ability, good telephone manner, recent hearing skills and public relations skills.

Maintenance Technicians

perform a variety of maintenance tasks including digging, clearing, light maintenance, general maintenance and snow removal. Dependence on carpentry, plumbing, electrical, grounds maintenance required. Should be self motivated, work independently and as part of a team, be persistent, motivated and committed to a membership based model of community controlled and permanently affordable housing. Reliable transportation and computer literacy skills are a plus.

GHT is a totally responsible employer offering a competitive salary commensurate with experience. Our benefit package includes training, health insurance, vacation, holidays, sick leave, 401(k), disability and life insurance. Submit a cover letter and resume by January 8th to: Human Resources, Chambers Housing Trust, 85 King Street, Richmond, VA.

FOOD/DRUG/DEVICE INTERACTIONS: Carb is associated with histamine-like effects and hypotension when administered with anesthesia. Fusion II contains benzocaine, which is a vasoconstrictor. Effects may be enhanced if used with other vasoconstrictors.

JOHNSON
STATE COLLEGE
STATION

COUNSELOR

Full Time Temporary

Johnson State College seeks a temporary counselor (37 hours a week for 15 weeks) starting January 18, 2006 to provide short-term personal and social counseling services to students, including emergency crisis intervention services. Qualified candidates will possess a master's degree in counseling or a related field, with an appropriate license or certification or licensable within six months.

To apply visit joc.edulifejobs and click
View Current Job Openings.

SENIOR ART DIRECTOR

K&N isn't an agency, it's a culture. We live it, we believe in it, we work hard to spread it, and we want your people to love it.

Digital, print, outdoor, broadcast – it's all easy to go. And while you're all about making the big idea, you're just as personable about pulling it through and making it work on any page, screen or device imaginable.

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- There is five years of multi-agency experience
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- A portfolio that combines sharp conceptual thinking with flawless execution
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- Idealized even for a big agency

To apply for this position, send your resume to jobs@knews.com. We'll respond to all qualified candidates.

21 E. Main St., Burlington VT 05401
www.kmau.com

Women's Small Business Program (WSBP) Director

Eligible exposure: women with information and resources to make informed decisions about business ownership. The WBSO Director is a dynamic, personable and organized leader responsible for coordination of all aspects of the business program delivery including outreach and enrollment, recruitment, reporting, instruction and program evaluation. The position is 32 hours/week and includes some evenings and weekend hours.

Administration and Hospitality Manager

Administrative support for the Executive Director, Board of Directors, Development and Communications Director and Program Staff. The Manager sets the tone of radical hospitality for all who engage the organization. The ideal candidate is a naturally organized, highly adaptable professional with grace and ease, has excellent customer service skills with a high level of personal accountability. The position is 32 hours/week, M - TH, with some evening and weekend hours.

Please send resume and cover letter by Friday, January 15th
 3000 Highway 100, Suite 200, Santa Monica, CA 90405
 310-342-0700 ext. 2440 • Fax: 310-342-0700 • info@www.merck.com/usa
www.merck.com/usa

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Per-diem Occupational Therapist

In collaboration with our interdisciplinary team, the OT will provide therapeutic services including: evaluation, treatment, and education for the patient. Additionally, the Occupational Therapist will monitor the treatment education of the OTU and take care on the team. After one year of experience, the OT may act as student supervisor and direct treatment education of OTU's and related service team.

Responsibilities included in Bachelor's degree or higher focus on educational programs for Occupational Therapists that is accredited by AOTA. Including the required supervised fieldwork. A primary focus on the 160021 team upon successful completion of fieldwork is also required. Previous or prior supervised experience preferred. State licensure for OT is required as an Occupational Therapist and have OTU certification is also necessary.

PLEASE APPLY ONLINE AT: www.rmcareers.org
or for more information, contact **Erin Kelly, Human Resources at Rutland Regional**
Rutland Regional Medical Center, 100 Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701



Rutland Regional Medical Center
An Affiliate of Rutland Regional Health Services

Rutland Regional Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer and all employees

SENIOR COPYWRITER

KDV has been agency for a while. We know it, we believe in it, we work hard to perfect it, and right now we need good people to become a part of it.

We are looking for a great copywriter who is also a great team player. Someone who wants to be part of shaping something bigger than him- or herself. Someone who is either help create the next big thing from this the world of the current one.

What we want:

- Five years of agency experience
- A portfolio that contains sharp conceptual thinking with creative execution
- Genuine digital experience
- A verifiable track of ego

To apply for this position, send your resume to jobs@kdv.com and we'll respond to all qualified candidates.

212 Battery St., Burlington, VT 05401
www.kdv.com



The State of Vermont

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

Department of Mental Health -
Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital
Psychiatric social work is a professional role covering the provision of social work services as part of a clinical treatment team at the DMH treatment facilities. Provide services to a client population which includes those who are unable to function in the community because of severe symptoms of mental illness and/or other handicaps. Significant collaboration with staff of other disciplines is involved in the formulation and implementation of a total treatment plan for clients, both in treatment facilities and after release. Master's degree in social work or a closely related field required. LICSW preferred. For more information, contact Becky Moore at becka.moore@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID# 618305. Location: Berlin, Status: Full-time. Application deadline: January 4, 2015.

OMH ACTIVITY THERAPIST

Department of Mental Health -
Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital
Join our team of professionals as a DMH Activity Therapist providing group activities and individual support to adults with serious mental illness. Facilitate groups to promote wellness and recovery, as well as skills for self-regulation, and work with a multidisciplinary team to set goals and measure progress. Must either be an RN or possess a bachelor's or master's degree in psychology, counseling or a related field. This is a full-time position, Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Mark Halderbach at mark.halderbach@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID 6018065. Location: Berlin, Status: Full-time. Application deadline: January 4, 2015.

To apply you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services at 855-626-6700 (toll-free) or 800-253-0167 (Toll-Free Service). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE, PEOPLE!



Seven Days supported these local organizations and initiatives through event sponsorship and subsidized advertising in 2015.

We encourage our readers and advertisers to give generously to local causes that keep Vermont healthy, connected and entertained.

Short on cash? Volunteering your time and talents also counts. **Already giving?** Spread the love and recruit a friend to match your generosity.

ACATony Awards

"American Moderns" exhibit at Shelburne Museum

ACA City Hall Park Concert Series: Festival of Foods, Holiday Artist Market, "of Land and Local" exhibit, Summer Artist Market, "Taking Pictures" exhibit

ACDM VT dance Festival and Disability Identity Project

Berlington Book Festival
Berlington Discover Jazz Festival
Berlington Wine & Food Festival
Champlain Wine Maker Fair
Ciderstock

On Good Festival
Eat by Northeast
Flynnspies
Green Mountain-Cannedy Festival
Green Mountain Film Festival
Hack VT

Halloween Howl
The Kids Are Alright
Kingdom Country Productions
Magic Hall: Mardi Gras: Hoorayfest
Night of the Living Dead
Octoberfest, Well to Canvas

Over the Edge for the Flynn
Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Vermont
Run for Empowerment
Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival
South End Art Hop
Stowe Car Classic
Stowe Wine & Food Classic
Toast to Clark Toast
Vermont Brewers Festival
Vermont Business Expo
Vermont International Film Festival
Vermont Shakespeare Company
Vermont's Furthest Connection Contest
Vermont Metro Gallery
Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association
Flower Show
Warren Miller Entertainment's Chasing Shadows
Yoga on Church Street

SEVEN DAYS
sevendaysvt.com

On Mountain Road, the Hin of the Wood Inn opened super cool new beer bar Doc Ponds in August. It joined the Bench — opened in late 2004 by the folks behind Waterbury's Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room — in serving inspired gastropub fare and a river of local craft suds.

This summer, Michael and Laura Klein of Michaels on the Hill took over flailing Crop (Bistro & Brewery). In November, they renamed the place Idyllic Brewing, traded up the menu and empowered brewmaster Will Gibson to get even creative in the brewery.

Meanwhile, Isaac Truitt's Agavehaus opened in June, offering long simmered Sunday Gumbo, fluffy, foie gras macarons, and eggplant substitute for lobster or swordfish service, as well as imported Italian meats, cheeses, antipasti and wines.

Then, two were born: naturalized, nearby Stone Wine & Cheese began offering glasses and snacks at 300 West River in July, while Waterbury's Cork Wine Bar & Market opened its natural wine-focused Boreas location this fall. Both offer light snacks, gorgonzola cheese boards and dozens of wines by the glass.

And there's more to come. The new year will bring Stone Bowl, a new "boutique bowling lounge" with gourmet snacks, craft beer and cocktails. Elsewhere in town, the owners of the Trapp Family Lodge (whose brewery won Trap Brewing, doubled its production capacity this year) plan to open a Bavarian-style beer hall before fall & huge looks on.

Troubling Trend

Original farm-to-table restaurants close

The ugly underbelly of all this shiny goodness is that we lose too many of Vermont's locavore pioneers quit the business in 2010.

Former Seven Days senior food writer Alice Levitt wrote about the phenomenon at length in September, just after Burlington's Blackbird Tavern closed, but more restaurants continued to fold through the end of the year. In November, Seven Days food critic/author Suzanne Podhorszki closed her Montpelier tasting room spot, Salt — though she continues to host occasional meals, including one scheduled for New Year's Eve. Podhorszki's reasons were money and complexity, but as she told Levitt: "The not

sure the way I want to be in the restaurant business is the most viable way to be in the restaurant business." By "the way I want to be," she meant using exclusively local, ethically sourced products in her cuisine. Gosh.

Silver Lining

Flip flopping at the Innovation Center of Vermont

It was a disappointment when Blackbird Coffee Shop closed in the South End last fall — Scott & Co. took over the place in October. It brought Owen Haggis's goasy, alchemist-muddled breakfast tacos, superlative coffee from Eric Coffeyworks and baked goods by Josh Lemaire of Williston Coffee Shop.

Bees points to local owners Andrew Burke and Tina Green for opening two fantastic new cafes in one year. And for sharing the second of these spaces, at the top of the Winooski traffic circle, with Virid Coffee roaster Ian Bailey, who trains some of the shop's bees on site.

Which brings me to...

Best Beverage Trend

Micro-batch coffee

It seems like every time I turn around, I notice another brand-new tiny coffee roastery. In the fall of 2010, Magdalen Vau Duon started roasting single-source beans at Eric Coffeyworks on Burlington's Pine Street, and this year those fruity, nutty, iron-specific beans started turning up everywhere. It's the best.

In addition to those, Scott Kerner (of Three Penny Taproom, Mad Two and Male Bar) and Ross Evans launched Carrier Roasting last spring. And the guys behind brand-new Upper Pine Beer in Tunbridge toast their own beans as First Branch Coffee, while the folks at Behrman Bakery in East Colton roast as Behrman Coffee Roasters. And Tim sure there are others I haven't discovered yet!

What's more: Cold brew has been a thing for a while, but you could only get it at a few places in Vermont — until now. In 2010, Death Before Decaf joined Northern Region Cold Brew in selling its bottled brew at retailers around Chittenden County. And many local roasters started making cold brew in-house, using the fantastic fresh beans noted above.

PAULINE'S CAFE & RESTAURANT

www.paulinescafe.com



Celebrate New Year's Eve

Special Dinner Menu
Created by Chef David Harris
Thursday, December 31 / 4:30-10:00pm

New Year's Brunch

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
January 1-3, 2010 / 10:00am-2pm

RESERVATIONS: (802) 562-5061 / 1534 Shelburne Rd., So. Burlington, VT



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Thursday - Saturday 5 pm - 10 pm

WEEKEND BRUNCH
Saturday + Sunday 10 am - 2 pm

WEEKLY SPECIALS
SUNDAY NIGHT + MONDAY
\$1 Naragansett + Bud Light Cans
TUESDAY - Vegetarian + Vegan
THURSDAY - RAMEN NIGHT!
FRIDAY - 'FRIED - day'

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&
Babe's

258 N. Winooski Ave., Old North End, Burlington
802.495.8716 butchandabes.com

Fare Thee Well

BY JACOB

Biggest Bummer

Death of a restaurateur

While 2015 was a good year for dining overall, it wasn't without setbacks. In July, Vergennes Restaurant Group chef-owner Michael Mabe dropped dead of a heart attack, leaving his many restaurants without a clear path forward. The chef's staff — many of whom had been with him for years — picked up the pieces with surprising grace. Still, the loss continues to echo, leaving regrets for what could have been. Mabe planned to continue opening new restaurants at a slow-and-steady pace, and we all would have been better (off) for it.



Michael Mabe

Natural Boon

Tree fruits

Any Vermont fruit grower will tell you, 2015 was a bountiful year for tree fruits. The summer was wet and warm, with weeks of sun between showers, and the trees responded with plump, crisp apples, pears, peaches, cherries and plums in remarkable abundance. Vermont's growing flock of cider makers spent the fall busily gathering the bounty for their beverages — from fresh trees along back roads and the increasing number of orchards growing horizons and "red-discovered" fruit statewide. Which means 2016 is already shaping up to be a great year for drinking, as those ciders start hitting the market next fall.



Courtesy: Josh Smith at A.C. Cane

Wellness

A Cuisine, Burlington

In September, Anna Noelle Shop owners Sandy and Gino Bong started leading yoga and Tai Chi sessions onto a corner table in the Burlington Town Center mall. Various good dishes that look appealing and eat them. I still can't quite wrap my head around it.



Gino's Cafe

Fastest Flop

Green Mountain Diner

Green Mountain Diner opened in Redford on August 21. The idea was fresh — locally sourced breakfast food made with local products and served at affordable prices. These are laudable goals in a working-class town. But the restaurant was located in the former Redford House of Pines, where beloved owner Christine "Clio" Cameron had committed suicide in January 2014. The place had been empty

ever since. "Twins were reluctant to enter, and those who did reported poor service and cold, sub-par food and coffee. On October 13, owner Josh Ed Morrison announced on Facebook that the diner was closed owing to "planning issues." It hasn't reopened.

Pop-up Pleasures

Secret feasts and adventure dinners

On Labor Day weekend, Hotel Vermont chef Doug Paine teamed up with Stonecutter Spirits, Shickbury Cider, Vermont Creamery and the Basin Harbor Club to offer a special, one-night-only adventure meal. Paine met at a location that wasn't named until the day of. Their hosts headed their cocktails made with Stonecutter's phenomenal barrel-aged gin (lastly the year's best new Vermont-made spirit), then they all boarded a boat ride in a remote, craggy cove on Lake Champlain. There, Paine treated everyone to a sunset picnic of oysters on the half shell and grilled delights.

In a similarly celebratory vein: This fall, Colchester's Goodwill Monday launched a series of "feasts" hosted at its owners' property in Swanton. Masses connoisseurs of slow-roasted meat beside bonfires craved.

We May Never Write About This Again

Bove's Café

One of Chittenden County's longest ongoing food stories of 2015 began with the news that, after 25 years of serving pasta on Pearl Street, the Bove family was closing the restaurant business.

First, word came — in early September — that Bove's old school Italian joint would close on December 28. A month later, this paper published a news feature on owner Dick Bove's role in Bernie Sanders' rise to political prominence. A month after that, we reported on local architect Louis Muzio Loran's hopes to lift the restaurant building off its foundation and move it to a new location.

In December, Bove's announced that it would construct a plant in Milton to produce its line of pizzas. Just last week, I interviewed Martin Snyder, who wanted lunch at Bove's for almost 40 years.

She'll miss the place, and so will its patrons — the Queen City has lost yet another restaurant where cocktails are \$4 and pasta plates are cheap and heaping. And she'll all I have to say about that. ☺

Contact: karnak@jacobsonpost.com

calendar

DEC. 30, 2015 JAN. 3, 2016

WED. 30

arts

ONE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE PROJECT—Hence, many arts and crafts projects for kids, for a one of a kind live production. Two to 12 years. Burlington 3:30 p.m. \$32-60. oneperformance.com

community

GETTING STUFF DONE WORK PARTIES—Get between complete a task and enhance your accomplishment in a comfortable atmosphere. Single tickets \$100. Burlington 8-9 p.m. Free info: 844-4362

crafts

ONE YEAR & UNDER WORKSHOPS—Crafters receive an evening fun. Burlington Memorial Library. December 30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

dance

HYPERLIFE PARTY—Bursts into life and go get down to the sounds. Bounce and bump with DJ/rapper DJ/rapper. Burlington 10:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

DEEP BLUE-DEEP BLUE—Bring music and dance to a place in your mind. Inspired by the blues. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

WINTER BLUES—Guitar, bass, drums and live band. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

etc.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE ARTS—Take advantage of the available to the community. Public and other groups. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

films

WAVE—A live music event. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

LIVING IN THE AGE OF ANIMALS—Starring animal artists and live music. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

HORTENSBURY—Shows in French with English subtitles. This is a live performance. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

MY BLUES—Live music. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

music

ADULT DRUMMING & DRUMMING NIGHT—Quick to learn. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

EDUCATION—Live music. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

health & fitness

YOGA—Live music. Burlington 8:30 p.m. Free info: 264-2842

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DEC 31 HOLIDAYS

3, 2, 1...

The First Night tradition was born in Boston in 1976 as a substance-free New Year's Eve celebration focused on the arts. Both Burlington and St. Johnsbury carry the torch, swinging into the Year of the Monkey with amusements ranging from music, dance and movies to comedy

magic and circus arts — with some dazzling pyrotechnics for good measure.

St. Johnsbury residents can take their pick from what event president Jay Sprout estimates to be 56 unique shows by more than 300 artists in 20 venues. But music is the main attraction. Folk, rock, bluesgrass,

Broadway, country and classical players add to the lineup welcoming event attendees such as the Atlantic Effect and Night

Guttenbach Klamm Band alongside returning players Bob Ames & Catamount Crossing. For the more visually inclined, Phoenix Beaver put on an incendiary outdoor fire show while the Catamount Arts Center shows Ma and Pa Kettle films and These Stooges shorts. Out late? A pinacolada supper fuels a nighttime revelers.

The Queen City keeps pace, transforming into a living, breathing showcase of local talent. Kid-friendly festivities include performing arts classes, music, crafts, high-flying stunts courtesy of Circus Smirkus and a cartoon fest at McMillin's Roxy Cinemas. Grown-ups can get down to live tunes all afternoon and evening at venues across Burlington. With such an extensive roster you may wish you could be in two places at once, but we think riding stunts Madallo and Kat Wright & the Indomitable Soul Band are must-sees at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Marking the first moments of the New Year with a bang is a midnight fireworks display on Church Street. Let's do this, 2016!



FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON & ST. JOHNSBURY

Thursday, December 31, 8 p.m. in midnight, at various Burlington locations. \$3-10. First Night Burlington. Free for kids under 12. www.firstnightvt.com

List your upcoming event here for free!



DEADLINE DEADLINES

All submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2015.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2015. All submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2015.



CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

LEADS AND SPONSORS ARE NOT THE SAME. BURLINGTON, VERMONT. LEADS AND SPONSORS ARE NOT THE SAME. BURLINGTON, VERMONT.



A Pirate's Life

Along, matey! Landlubbers dive into danger on the high seas in a National Theatre Live broadcast screening of *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. When an innkeeper's granddaughter named Ann, played by Patsy Ferron in a gender-role-reversing turn on the tale, meets a sinister sailor bearing a chest of secrets, a perilous adventure ensues. Costarring Arthur Darvill as Long John Silver, *Brigade* Leverage's adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's swashbuckling story "keeps alive the wit and excitement of the book," according to the *Guardian*. Stevenson's salty audacity invaded the big screen at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. *Moonrise* considers, because: This production is best suited for ages 10 and up.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30-10 p.m., at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 512-82-0022, 551-5961, perthamtheatre.org

Laugh Riot

With a standup comedy career spanning more than two decades, Jim Breuer still serves up fresh helpings of humor. After cutting his teeth on the New York City club circuit, Breuer's ship came in in a major way: He scored a regular spot on "Saturday Night Live," followed by his role alongside Drew Carey in the iconic 1994 sitcom *Weekend Update*. These days, the die-hard New York Mets fan hosts a podcast covering everything from his favorite baseball teams to his longtime estrangement (not nearly laughable). Audience members laugh until they cry when the "Goth Boy" rapper dishes out his uncanny impressions and home-life humor as part of his Marriage Warrior tour.

JIM BREUER

Thursday, January 7, 7:30 p.m., at Lebanon Opera House in Lebanon, N.H., 603-261-4930; info: 603-445-0400, lebanonoperahouse.org; Friday, January 6, 8:30 p.m., at Grizzards at the Edge Lodge, 30 Stratton Mountain Resort, 603-862-1070, 800-400-0000; Stratton.com; and Saturday, January 9, 8 p.m., at Performance Theatre in Rutland, 249-761-1010, 1-800-950-0000, perthamtheatre.org

JAN.7-9 | COMEDY



JAN.6 | TALKS



Words to Live By

In a 2011 interview with *Reading the Room*, well-known author Katherine Paterson encouraged parents to experience literature with their kids every day. Citing the *Berry Patch* phenomenon as a shining example, the Vermont-based writer argued that reading aloud is a family treasure: a lifelong love of words, and she should know. A mother of four and a two-time Newbery Medal winner for her children's novel *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*, she has introduced today's youngsters to the world of books. Paterson lays out the importance of literacy in the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesday lecture "Reading for the Life of the World."

KATHERINE PATERSON

Wednesday, January 6, 7 p.m., at Swanton Memorial Library in Swanton, Free, info: 249-7602, vermonthumanities.org

CONCLUSIONS



RESOLUTION TO REALITY

JOIN IN JANUARY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

- No joining fee
- Free fitness assessment
- Two well-equipped facilities
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- On-site member child care
- Two indoor pools
- A welcoming community

www.gbymca.org

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Northeast Delta Dental is pleased to offer a dental plan to individuals and families through Vermont Health Connect. The enrollment/renewal period for calendar year 2016 is November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016.



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Find the plan that's right for you

VermontHealthConnect.gov

1-855-899-9600

calendar

THU 1/14/16

KATY SHED ARMY® The Henderson College orchestra reveals the classical 1700-century violin solo in "An encore in Renaissance Venice," one of the first six discourses given before St. John's Cathedral Library 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free, info: 948-8101

NANCY RIVERA Arts-to-entertainment acceptance ceremony and auction will be highlighted in the first 30 minutes of the evening, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 793-1800

PETER SAGOR The first Wednesday in the first full moon of the year at Shakespeare's 400th birthday celebration, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

STANLEY B. ELKAN "Believe in the West" solo at the length of the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

YASUYUKI "Not for the Age" solo at the length of the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

WARRIOR The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

THE WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP: CHAPTER FIVE The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

THU.7

ART FILM TIME Myra Samuels' expressive and artful photography is featured in the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

OPEN STORIES Open stories will be featured in the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

community The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

film The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

health & fitness The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

SELF-CARE ICE INTO TO SELF MASSAGE The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

ride The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

RAVENS The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

SEA MONTHLY A PROTESTANT ADVENTURE The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

SEMPER PARVUS The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

SO WITH THE FLOW, A CELEBRATION OF IMPROVISED HIP HOP The award-winning poet and musician will perform at the first full moon of the year, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free, info: 340-1184

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EARLY BIRD NIGHT (Swiss, sang) and performed a concert on the 4th anniversary of the September 11th attacks at the New Haven American Theater. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

SEA MONSTER & PREDATOR ADVENTURE Sea Monster: 303-900-0000.

science

NORTH HAVEN BRIDGE HANDRELL ENSEMBLE Musicians in motion in the early morning in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

SWISS JUNE Musicians in motion in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

theatre

JERRY BRONK The North Haven College and the North Haven College of Arts and Sciences. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

theater

A HUNDRED NIGHTS OF THE PAST The North Haven College and the North Haven College of Arts and Sciences. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

music

WINDY HAVEN WORKSHOP A 10-hour workshop for musicians in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

SAT.9

comedy

JOHN BRONK Sat 10:00 PM. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

community

NORTH HAVEN BRIDGE HANDRELL ENSEMBLE Musicians in motion in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

etc.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE Sat 10:00 PM. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

WINDY HAVEN WORKSHOP A 10-hour workshop for musicians in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

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films

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food & drink

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speakers

NORTH HAVEN BRIDGE HANDRELL ENSEMBLE Musicians in motion in the city of North Haven. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 303-203-2030.

health & fitness

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kids

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Happy Challah Days!



* SEVEN DAYS is on Vacation!

Look for our first issue of 2016 on January 13!

HIRING? Advertise your job openings with us throughout the holidays and into 2016 by contacting Michelle Brown at michelle@sevendaysvt.com or sevendaysvt.com/posting/job.

LONG TRAIL BREWING CO. UNPACK THE FLAVORS OF THE SEASON



Long Trail Ale, Double Bag, India Pale Ale & "Sick Day" now available in the Long Trail Survival Pack.

WWW.LONGTRAIL.COM





Who is speaking up for Vermont utility customers?

Vermont's utility regulatory system is badly broken and needs fixing. The Department of Public Service, which should be protecting ratepayers, works too closely with Vermont utilities at the expense of ratepayers—putting your hard-earned money in jeopardy.

AARP knows that Vermont families can't afford a murky and complex system where they don't have a voice. That's why we're fighting for an independent public advocate that will speak up for Vermonters, putting ratepayers and small businesses first—not the state's well-financed utilities. But we need your help.

This holiday season, tell your local legislators to step up—enough is enough! Support the efforts underway to create an independent public advocate and make your voice heard.

To learn more and take action, go to
action.aarp.org/VT

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aarp.org/VT



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Vermont

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Best of the Best

The top music of 2015, according to local scenesters

BY DAN BOLLES

Each December, *Seven Days* polls area musicians, club owners, talent buyers and others to find out which records rocked their ears over the preceding year. We ask for their favorite local and national albums (see our own top 10 Vermont albums on page 65). As a bonus, we also ask for predictions of what might come to pass in the New Year. Spoiler: The local scene is better than Bern. Here's what they said.

BRYAN JACKSON (BOB "TUESDAY NIGHT JAZZ" HENRIKSON PUBLIC HOUSE)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: Aubrey Bernstein, *Alight*, Okay New Vin
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Kamel Washington, *The Epic*

PREDICTION FOR 2016: That someone records *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, sophisticated Matt McCarthy's wonderful suite of Civil War-era material. As James Brown would say, "Please, please, please."

KELLY SMITH (WINDUP STUDIO)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: Ben Desrosiers & the Congregation, *Reverend Ben Desrosiers & the Congregation*

BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Alton Parnes, *Now*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Nikita Siroc takes Jheremy's Winsans and shows up at my doorstep

"MR. CHARLIE" FRANKIE (WHEN BLUES FOR BREAKFAST)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Lucid, *Dirty*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: James Harman, *Remember*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Blues finds a home in the Burlington market some where!

BRANDYSTICKE (JAY HANNAH, KNOX HILL, FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Midsala, *The Dancer*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors, *Mulberry*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Joe Cason will have an early indie release, begin wearing acid-washed jeans, practice and play on several late-night shows, and stand in front of Neotoma every night but Mondays asking people, "Where did the good go, man?"

JOHN ISLAND (WOMANIZER BEE, SEVEN DAYS CONTRIBUTOR)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: County Tracks, *L. Billy Kame*, *County Tracks*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Vince Staples, *Summertime '06*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Sigal Kitchen transitions from venue to boutique hedge fund

ZACH BURNETT (THE BAYVIEW INN)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Maysie Smith, *The Way It Is*

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Maysie Smith, *The Way It Is*

BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Donald Trump loses the election, gets severely depressed, goes into weight and releases an album under his hip-hop alias, MC Donald Trump.

ALICE CROTHIE (CD OWNER, HICKORY GROUNDS)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Midsala, *The Dancer* (though Maysie Smith is a tight runner-up)
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: Wilco, *Star Wars* (though Courtney Barnett got just as many spins for me)
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Donald Trump ditchs politics for a career in hip-hop stage music

JEFF THOMPSON (LAST SUPERIOR, JULY 26, INDEPENDENT MYSTERY POINTS, STATE & MAIN RECORDS)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Pascal Pic, *Wrist Soap*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard, *Quartz*

PREDICTION FOR 2016: The Burlington Record Plant will be highly successful and need to run night and day to keep up with demand

MATT YODanis (TALLET BROS, HICKORY GROUNDS, PRESENTS BEARING WOUNDS, THE MONKEY HOUSE)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Midsala, *The Dancer*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Dr. Dog, *Love at a Flowering Hotel*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Disco Phantom will somehow drop 645 shows in 365 days. Also, the sixth annual Waking Windows festival is gonna be dope.

JAMES COOLEY (BLAZE BUTTER)

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Rough Francis, *REPP 7-inch* (I'm a 45 guy lately)
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Ade, *Wrote Better Than This* (Flamingo Fossil, Klamme)

PREDICTION FOR 2016: One day I walk into City Market and don't hear Dave Hickory yell, "Hey, Goolguy?"

SEVEN FAMILIES, POINTS

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Urban Hickory, *The Bear*

BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Kendrick Lamar, *To Pimp a Butterfly*

PREDICTION FOR 2016: Bernie Sanders will drop a surprise LP with Killer Mike called *Ran the %*. It

will sell considerably more copies than his 441 record securing the presidency. Killer Mike will earn a cabinet position for all his support and will amend the White House's smoking policy to allow blunts to be smoked in designated "backbay-free zones."

BRYAN HIGLE, BLORP! PHANTOM, WAKING WINDOWS

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Maysie Smith, *The Way It Is*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. First City, *Wily Make Sound*, *Designing Bug*, *Gold Her Phoenix*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Bernie Sanders and Killer Mike will drop the hottest marriage of 2016 with features from Lil' Brand and Ben B

REYNOLDS, MANAGER, THE MONKEY HOUSE, WAKING WINDOWS

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Maysie Smith, *The Way It Is*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Unknown Mortal Orchestra, *Midi-*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Old of Disco Phantom's prediction: Killer Mike and Bernie ditch their hit single at the Monks!

SEAN HIGLEY, CUSTER MOUNTAIN, POINTS

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Maysie Smith, *The Way It Is*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Sam Gellim, *Angelo*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: I predict that Brian Nigle (aka DJ Disco Phantom, aka GUSPI) while attempting to break his personal record for longest DJ set, will send us into play a Kanye West song.

MELTON FUSHER, MELTON FUSHER, AND THE GRIN MONK

BEST LOCAL ALBUM: L. Francesco Blanchard, *dear luciano*
BEST NATIONAL ALBUM: L. Checco, *Barry Open Eye*
PREDICTION FOR 2016: Three words: Kat Wright exploded



Photo: Justin Hynes/Photo.com





Is Madalla? Is Not Madalla.

The controversy has been raging, for...at least a week or two. Are the **MADLILLIANS**, the disco funk band that claims to have time traveled to Vermont from the 1970s and is headlining the Rusty Nail in Bloor on New Year's Eve, really just local dance-pop band **MADALLA**? But with access bars, toothpicks and enhanced bulgogi?

In an official statement regarding the issue, Madalla have vehemently denied the claim, despite the striking physical similarities between the two quartets and the bands' names, and the fact that time travel violates all known laws of physics.

"We categorically deny that Madalla is connected to the Madlillians," the band wrote. "We do admit that the five members of the Madlillians look a whole lot like our five members — like a lot, lot. The resemblance is so striking that we can't blame our friends and fans for assuming that the Madlillians are an alter ego band we thought of, like, a few weeks ago and created to have an awesome time playing party music from all eras at events that call for epic, universally loved covers, events such as weddings, private parties or a New Year's show at the Rusty Nail in Bloor with **WAGONS** and a few **WAGONS**."

While that statement satisfied most skeptics, not everyone was convinced. Newly unemployed rock journalist — and **LAST KNOWN** rock band's second cousin — **CHRISTOPHER CHEN**, who is best known for his definitive 2012

interview with **Atomic** crooners **as you say** — and is definitely not **Ben Daps** — recently caught up with the Madlillians' **WAGONS** for the inside story.

CHESTER BANGS: A lot of people have been saying that you guys are really just Madalla in smazzier outfits. However, Madalla have fleetly refuted the rumor. For the record can you confirm or deny that claim?

VINCENT NANNINI: At first we were disturbed by people's claims that we hadn't time traveled from the '70s. Everyone said that we were really a pre-1960s band, Madalla, that had created an entire ego act to play new kinds of music in new kinds of outfits and create existential confusion around themselves (having finally settled on a name after 14 or 15 tries). It's frustrating to be misunderstood.

But since we found out how handsome and charming all five members of Madalla are, we've started feeling OK about the confusion. Chester, this band is *astoundingly* delightful on all fronts, delighted to a degree that seemed impossible until we stumbled upon our current Madalla hypothesis — that John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe had quadruplets, and then one more son, all of whom got in the wrong elevator at some point in early childhood and ended up in long-forgotten 1990s Vermont. Like us, they could have time

traveled in an elevator. Whenever they came from, they have impeccable taste. While performing people to believe our narrative, we are honored to be inaccurately associated with Madalla.

CB: What has surprised you the most about the year 2018? Cars? Music? Food? Yoga pants? The general aversion to body hair?

VN: The strangest part about the transition has been seeing all of the people in 2015 looking at what we call *Result: Glowing Party Rectangles*. Nobody seems to be talking or grooving or getting goosy like they did back in the '70s. There's not nearly enough body hair for our tastes, both in terms of quality and quantity. The hairs are just so good, though! In *Bulge Land*, it's a bit of a trade-off. Less down-on-bulge-age, but all of that is made up for at the gym. The fresher hair is just so good.

CB: What sort of love machine are you guys driving?

VN: We arrived in the present in an elevator. Can't remember the exact model — think it was an Otis, possibly with gearless traction? Anyway, we got in this elevator at our show at the Philadelphia Spectrum arena in 1977 and, when the doors opened, it was 2018. It was a shock. The arena didn't exist anymore. We were expecting to see our helicopter on the Spectrum's

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HIGHER GROUND



WED 1:30 **Higher Ground**

SAT 1:00 **Higher Ground**
Redfish: A Tribute To Sublime
Mighty Moris

THU 1:14 **Candyland**
Punk Cats

SAT 1:16 **SHIT To Bad** welcomes
Davy Knowles

TUE 1:16 **Shine Like You**
Kings H Knives
Rock Sound Jack Skye

WED 1:30 **Vivid & the Whims**

THU 1:21 **Go To The E** welcomes
Banners

SAT 1:33 **Monsta Party** (featuring
Brook Jordan & Zdenek Gebis of
Twiddle)
Delectable Dicks

SAT 1:33 **Make Veterans Count**
John & the Jansons

JUST ANNOUNCED —
2018 Toronto City & Ontario Avenue
300 The Wind Brothers
2018 Maple Forest & The Stars
400 Jim Nelson

📍 1014 Midland Street, North York
📞 416-463-3777
📧 info@higherground.ca
🌐 <http://higherground.ca>

live culture
VIBRANT ARTS NEWS • VIEWS

For up to the minute news about the local music scene, follow **@liveculture** on Twitter or read the Live Culture blog www.liveculture.com.



SPRUCE PEAK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY

Presented by
Green Mountain
Mahler Festival
Saturday, January 2, 7:00PM

CHAD HOLLISTER BAND

Saturday, January 16, 7:00PM

NOBBY REED PROJECT

Saturday, January 23, 7:00PM

COMEDIAN ETTA MAY

Thursday, January 28, 7:00PM

ROMEO AND JULIET

By the State Ballet of Russia
Saturday, January 30, 7PM

22 Hourglass Dr., Stowe
760-4634
SprucePeakArts.org



Best of the Best

by JAC

LAM MURRAY STARR, BULLY: MEET UP & MEET UP AND TOP OF THE ORDER: DANCE PARTY

L. The Leatherhead Biker, Tundra My Ropes

ML Andra Day, Chorus to the Fall

2016 The Insects I – also angry DJs and more producers – will speak against SoundCloud (finally) and they will backle under the pressure, abandoning their loosing ad and backing off their fascist copyright drama.

REN MADORE: THE MOUNTAIN SAYS NO

L. Black Babes, Red Flannel Bitch

ML Willen, Star Wars

2016 Grinch! Dead cover bands will finally give traction to Vermont and be able to get gigs and stuff

HALE MADORE: TALENT BUREAU: MEETARY

L. Francesca Blanchard, dear rólone

ML Vulpix, Thrill of the Arts

2016 Memorial Auditions will get the revamp that every music lover wishes for, and we'll see a whole new set of music acts that previously couldn't fit in any room in Burlington.

JOE MADORE: HIT-TO-ALL

L. Harder They Come, The Punk EP

ML Tundra, Tundra

2016 That Janet Jackson doesn't cancel her February dates in Boston, and that I can fulfill my dream of seeing G2

GRAN HANNEY: BANGS: FRANCIS

L. Heavy Plans, Heavy Plans

ML Ghosties: Kith, Just Said

2016 A new Rough Francis album.

FRANKLIN: MEETARY, MEETARY AND THE PROBLEMS

L. The Ignites, Tympanon

ML Dumbbells, Revival, White

Lampshade On

2016 Kevin Olson (Olson Machine Photography, Kevin Olson and the Static Circus, Radio Stars) is gonna be doing something crazy for the Burlington music



community. What that is, maybe only has cat beds know.

HAKE DAILY: ANGELS

L. Kelly Davis, Cooney Tracks

ML Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly

2016: Further John Wiley will play at my wedding.

ERIC GORDON: LONGMARCH, JUNEY TONE

TURKISH HODI

L. Francesca Blanchard, dear rólone

ML The Delicacies, The Delicacies

2016: The Lights Club Lamp Shop has grown so fast in the heart of Burlington, we'll soon be woi

TIM LEWIS: TROTS THROUGH TUNING, WICK

L. Black Babes, Red Flannel Bitch, The Mountain Says No, JV

ML Iron Maiden, The Book of Souls

2016: With Myra Smith moving on to Philadelphia and Kari Wright & the Indomitable Soul Band playing more and more out-of-town shows, Martin Bernice will release a stunning album and grab the title of queen of the Queen City

SHANMAY: TALENT BUREAU: MEETARY

L. Madras, The Stone

ML Leon Bridges, Coming Home

2016: All of my predictions work it makes me sound more braver than I usually am, but I think and hope vinyl sales will continue to grow exponentially

ERIC OLSEN: SINGLE, BLUE BUTTER JAMES

GRAN HANNEY: SUPERHERO

L. Michael Chorney & Hollar General, Assassinate Light – ewa, I wish I had my vinyl copy (I lost it, Chorney)

ML Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly – man, I wish I had the vinyl for that (I lost it, Jasey)

2016: I predict that all my vinyl wishes will come true.

ERIC HANNEY: MADARA: FUTURE/PEAS

L. And the Kids, Turn to South City

ML Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly

2016: Blahblah blings will decide that



artistic expression is best valued in a non-transcendental setting and will passionately choose to supplement workshops musical experience with other forms of support.

SHANMAY: TALENT BUREAU: MEETARY

L. Anxiety Disorder, Deme 2015

ML Downtown Boys, Full Communion

2016: Vermont will become the "yacht-writing" gotten in for a wide range of every excellent artists. I'm crossing my fingers that Springsteen at least drives through for some reason. Or flies over Or flies near Vermont.

CAROLINE: ECONOMIC VERBIA, STRAY PETIT

L. Michael Chorney & Hollar General, Shadowless Light

ML Ravi Vile, Mover (in your dream)

2016: More Vermont bands will start incorporating backup dancers during their shows.

TAYLOR SWIFT: CHERIE BLUE

L. And the Kids, Turn to South City

ML Maroon 5: Original Broadway Cast Recording (Go on, Fight me on this)

2016: Chris Derman won the Grammy he so richly deserves. Caroline Rose and Abbie Martin turn up after a hiatus collection of country-rock duets (line George's machine surrounds everyone really irresponsible corporations and focus them to surrender. The Duffins Brothers create the Oscar-winning soundtrack for a movie, and launch it on the film. Francesca Blanchard becomes huge in Europe. Robert Nozick, Mark Davis and Pete Dinklage go from focus to become Berkeley, the worst, kinder folk tree in history

WILLIAM: HOWIE: MADARA: FUTURE/PEAS

L. Myra Smith, The Way It Is

ML Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly

2016: Frank Ocean will still not release new music. @

SOUND*bites*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

roof bar instead saw a vacant lot in Philly. We are currently raising money to build a new time machine. We're not picky about the type. We just want to get back to the '70s for fundie reasons, toothpick reasons and some other reasons, as well.

CB: Do you have plans to stick around for a while? Or will you be home traveling on after the Rusty Nail show? If so, where?

VM: Our goal is to get back to the 70s as soon as possible. It was nice there. We were famous. People looked after us — cleaned up messes, disposed of our used toothpicks, brought us new toothpicks, picked up toothpicks that had fallen on the floor and handed them back to us because we weren't done.

CE: Last question: What's the key to a good fondue party?

YN Life: Everything a good female party is only as good as the cheese. And the birds. Got to have the birds. Having a quality pot that maintains a constant temperature is key. Otherwise, the oils are likely to separate and fall from the cheese(s) and cause all sorts of mess on your gold chains and, for a chest hair and/or box of toothpicks. A classy variation: 2x to use the Swiss cheese Bachelors and add beefed parmesan into the fold. An even classier variation is to have a small team of expert chefs making sure all of the ordinary tasks are taken care of, so you can focus on the most important part of "female party" — the party. Back in the 70s we had that.



What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?

Thanks, Chester Dynamite staff, as always.

Moving on, the Madallions aren't the only big show on the docket for New Year's Eve. The local scene is positively bursting with fun stuff to ring in 2016.

Local sets of **CLATS, BOUNCH** and **CLATS**, headlining a **NYE** bash at the **Manly House** in **Winnipeg**. That's a local news on its own. But the real story is the return of local fourth-wave ska punkers **WANNABE**, who open the show following a years-long absence. Welcome back, **WANNABE**.

Speaking a vile, **BAND OF THIEVES'** 2005 EP *Mentor* had a bit of a slasher-vibe amid the band's typical funk-fueled bombast. They'll be getting hairy (and funky) at Nectar's. However, if reggae is more your speed, head upstairs to Club Metronome, where the **40 YARD STEW** celebrated nine years of reggae music.

At the Skanky Parade in Burlington, local not-so-new wave bands and a steel band, present A New Year's Eve Thriller No. 1, it's not a mystery dinner theater — though that would be pretty cool. Rather, it's Panda deploying his phantasmagorical pipes to cover MICHAEL JACKSON. TADGEE

Over at Higher Ground in South Burlington, local pun band *remora* have urbanized the classic three-night NYE. Backroom run. That's great for the band and its legion of fans. Though I have to add that I'm a little miffed because I predicted *remora* were more likely to



fine. Still, I'm calling my 2016 short novel The Modifiers will somehow still be stuck in the future (or the present, I guess) and will co-headline the Redroom with Modale this time next year.

Last but not least, *First Night* Burlington has a particularly strong local lineup this year. Highlights include *KAT WRIGHT & THE DISCREETABLE ELITE*, *BALE*, *BARB & TIGER* from the *ROCKY HORROR* show, *DRUMBOY CHALMERS*, from the *ALADDIN* musical, *GOPEL*, from *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, *MIKE FLYNN*, *FRANCISCA BLANCHARD*, *MYSTIC*, *JOE MITCHELL*, *THE DAPHNE BROTHERS*, *SECRET RHYTHM*, *KAT WRIGHT & BRIET HINDS*, *GRACE ANTONIACHI*, the *LEARNER* from *ROCKY*, *OLD FAY*, *GUINER GUY*, *OLD FAY*, *AGONY*, *HERMION* and *Melodie*. (See if the Melodians can't possibly be *Melodie*.) Visit firstnightburlington.com for specific services and show times. Oh, and, *happy New Year!*

(Disclosures: Rough Francis never worked at a Seven Days employee. Queen City Hot Club's treasurer is the author's brother-in-law.)



A person who cannot hear or see any sound, however faint, is called **deaf-blind**.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS: 1. Love Your Memory, Your Community, Yourself, Some Forward Set Aside

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MURILAN STERNING, Charles E. Larson

Watch something **LOCAL** this week.

Channel 50

**THIS IS HOW
LIBERTY OIES**
WEDNESDAYS 8-10 PM

Channel 52

**BEST OF
2015**
RETURNING MATCH

Channel 53

**WATCH LIVE
@ 5:25**
HIGHLIGHTS ON
TV AND ONLINE

GET THE BEST OF THE WEEK ONLINE AT
VERMONT.COM/50-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59



Ziggy is the cartoon
 which explores the whole
 world in a comical style.
 Available on TV.

ONE OF THE ZIGGY ENT
 VIZIONA

COUNTY & ROCK NIGHT w/ DJ PAT (TV 5)
 11:30P
WYE TOAST OF THE TOWN
 w/ ISANTOS RT & FUTURE B. (TV 5)
 P13
MIRIA FLYNN & PAUL GORFA (TV 5)
SALSA NIGHT
 w/ JAM REG (TV 5)
LOS CAÑE VILLA
 & RON STOPPABLE (TV 5)
 11:30P
DR. CRAIG MITCHELL (TV 5)
 165 CHURCH ST. 375 • 800.390.3631

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 See our Facebook
 page for upcoming
 dates.
Happy New Year!
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Say you saw it in... **SEVEN DAYS**
sevenmag.net

WED. 30

burlington

CLUB HORIZONS David Lee Roth and THE DONUTS! Band Performance at 10PM (Pub crawl) 8pm \$10, 10pm \$15

THE GARY PLAYERS Thomas Paken (rock) 8pm, free

HALLFLOORS SPEAKEASY DJ Lorie (rock) 10pm, free

APRIL 10th Pub crawl with 7 8pm, free; Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

JANIPLEX Ray Vega and Benita Lee (rock) 10pm, \$10

LOVE CLUB LAMP (rock) 10pm, \$10; Pilsa Night, Indie, Electronic, Dance 10pm, \$10

MAMMATION PIZZA, BLUR David Lee Roth and Andy Cole 10pm, free

MEETUP Meetup Night with Steve Meadows & Joe 10pm, free

MARIE KEAR Chris Miller (rock) 7pm, free; Indie Anthems (dance) 10pm, \$10

RED SQUARE (dance) 10pm, free; DJ Pat (pop) 10pm, \$10

THE GRANTY PARADE (BURLINGTON) Josh Peniston Acoustic Band Night 8pm, \$10

VERMONT COMEDY CLUB Standup Open Mic 7pm, free

ZEN LOUNGE Karaoke with David Lee Roth 10pm, \$10

CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

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CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

outside vermont

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CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

Band of Brothers

Burlington indie-folk duo the current members are primed for a big 2016. Most notably, they'll be releasing a new album recorded with local composer and songwriter Michael Chorney. Given Chorney's ear for the ethereal, we can only imagine what he'll do with Sam and Zack DeWolf's intricate guitar work, detailing harmonies and achingly beautiful melodies.

While Eric and Zack are at the show, the DeWolfs kick the year off in style with an intimate show at the Good Times Café in Winooski on

Saturday, January 2.



SAT. 2 // THE BROTHERS BAND

burlington

THE BROTHERS BAND Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

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CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

FRI. 1

burlington

THE BROTHERS BAND Karaoke 10pm, \$10

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke with the Lady 10pm, free

CHILDREN'S COUNTY Karaoke 10pm, \$10

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burlington

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burlington

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REVIEW *this*

Imperfect 10

The best local recordings of 2015

BY DAN BOLLES



Why 10? Looking back on the voluminous number of Vermont recordings released in 2015, in an effort to distill which were "the best," that's the nagging question: Why 10? Sure, 10 is a round number. But it's otherwise arbitrary. It's also frustratingly limiting, especially when you consider the sheer record output in the local scene over the last several years. But it's not merely an issue of quantity that makes selecting a top 10 problematic: The quality of local music, across the board, is at an all-time high. Lo to wit.

You could make any number of legitimate 2015 top 10 lists choosing solely from the local rock scene. Indie darlings Villanueva made a triumphant return with a surprise EP, whetting our appetite for next year's full-length *Argumentatively* act is money new protocol for electric rock on their debut *Phil Yates & the Affiliates* son was true on their sophomore record.

The *Phytogen* shuddered with pearly nostalgia. Henry Pious belted back to the heyday of grunge. Malverde explored classic indie jungle. *Sleeping in bed* out with a soulful, bluesy, shaggy. Teenage sensations the *Beat* hit our ears with our hearts. Mystery Poets and heels and then goodbye.

The *Tenants* unleashed a double dose of bluesy crashing robotic art. Gang of Thieves got heavy. The *Ignominious*

got jammy. Veterans of Cult got gleaming. Dooms Service got doomy. Apartment 3 got drunk. And Vedova signed off with a gorgeously bitter-sweet farewell.

Turning back the clock, proto-punk heroes Death offered something new on their first album of original material in 40 years. Red kept the dream of the '90s alive with their first record in two decades. Drownington's Jason Leonard released a post-rock master thesis but, in a sign of the times, did so via YouTube.

You could similarly make a convincing best-of list composed solely of local folk, country and Americana. Old Sly delivered a cloudy EP of moxy twang. Eastern Mountain Time showcased old-country angst. The Jeffersonian Blues debut was tender and hopeful. Bluegrassers ventured west. Tad Proctor left Nashville for the country. The Woodagees offered an unapologetic treatise on offbeat heavy tank. Sergio Diaz and the Mid-Nite Howlers dug into the vault for a comprehensive career retrospective.

From the trad scene, Pete's Place served up a mid-generationist gem. Dale and Daisy went twirling. And Joseph McLean unveiled a dreamy work.

As always, singer-songwriters were well represented in 2015: Ben George distilled whiskey-soaked blues out with classic country Sherron Hovley turned poetic and whimsical. Abbie Merin found solace in the shadows

Rock. Wisconsin took us to the woods. Kristina Styles went off the grid for her masterpiece. Parish Faith's Billy Sharf carried us home. Ryan Plumber and Django Koenig said goodbye.

After a few lean years, 2015 was also a jazz fix. Vocalist Audrey Bernstein seduced on a winning full-length. Hot Box Henry came out swinging with worldly *East*. Gypsy-jazz vet Will Putnam contemplated time and found that it's still very much on his mind. The Soulmates Jazz Band resumed a timeless local classic. Gypsy guitarist Raphael Gracia journeyed home along Will Ackerson's imaginary road.

Experimental music enjoyed a similar renaissance in 2015, thanks to new local imprinters Como Tapes and mysterious releases from Ansel Deitch and Harvey Bigman. Across the lake, Our Holy Organic Cosmic Tapes completed the first phase of... whatever it is they're planning. Brechtelweh's *Adrenal* made noise, and lots of it. Max Pearl continued to confound. And some shivers. Lawrence Walker & Our Fear to Cross sent us one final postcard from the edge.

Puzzlingly, after a benchmark 2014, 2015 was a quiet year for releases in Vermont hip-hop. Producers such as Erik and Louie kept the beats flowing, though. And with the lyrigistic Goldman's new record slated to drop in January, following production delays, look for hip-hop to rebound in 2016.

Though the local electronic dance scene sure boasts a wealth of talented DJs and producers, proper albums

release are rare. That didn't stop house DJs Hinder. They Come from getting freaky on their debut EP.

Old friends are doing well in new places. From Brooklyn, Alpenglow closed the Vermont chapter of their story. In San Francisco, Guthrie Gafine continued his storaging. King of Nowhere ruled in Northampton. Hens Zens explored the North from the Midwest. Gaffie Gaffie got reckless in Nashville. Rapper Colby Stiles came down to Earth in Florida. Alack Wagonmaster followed out in Portland, Ore.

Vermont's big names led by years. And the kids split time between Burlington and Northampton, coming the cities to terms in each other to see who goes easiest. Anna Mitchell treated fans to a loving retrospective. Trey Anastasio recovered the wheels. With front man Ryan Miller in Vermont, Gracie discovered the secret to perpetual motion. And the clock struck midnight on the Moctemile as Gracie Torrey went solo.

If you made a best-of-2015 list with any combination of 10 albums from the preceding paragraphs, you'd get no argument from this critic. You'd also probably agonize over the records you're leaving out, much as I have in making my own. Still, having too many good options to choose from is a wonderful problem to have. So it is that I present the 10 albums that stood out to my ears over the past 12 months. Call them the "best," if you want. But I prefer to think of them simply as brilliant examples of another exceptional year in Vermont music. **D**

TOP 10
LOCAL RECORDINGS OF 2015

HABASALA, The Dance

HARVEY BIGMAN, The Way It Is

MICHAEL CHERNEY & HILLARY GENERAL, *Uncommonly Right*

THE HIGHERMENT SAYS NO, //

BLACK HARBET, And When? Yeah

FRANCISCA BLANCHARD, *Dear Victim*

REVEREND BEN DENOVIN & THE CONGREGATION, Reverend Ben Denovin & The Congregation

PHILIP, FIVE, *Phil's Song*KELLY RAYNE, *Country Street*

COREY WEISSMAN, The Holy Life: Youth Caring

SKI & RIDE WITH THE POINT!

OUR 25TH YEAR! KICKS OFF
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT
JAY PEAK RESORT!

GET
**HALF-PRICE
LIFT TICKETS,**
THEN HANG FOR
THE APRES SKI &
RIDE PARTY WITH
LOTS OF PRIZES!

Get all the info
on Ski & Ride with The Point
at pointfm.com



made possible by
BURTON



GET THE POINT... WITH LONG SETS OF WORLD CLASS ROCK EVERY HOUR!

music

CLUB DATES

UNAVAILABLE: ALL AGES

THE 31 / LEE FIELDS & THE EXPRESS (SOUL)



Express Yourself In an era when retro soul has become vague, it's creeping to call **LEE FIELDS** a throwback. He's anything but. Fields has been crossing and bowing since the late 1960s — long before the likes of Major Hawthorne, Ryan Shaw and other modern soul remadeurs were even born. Fields is the genuine article, a vibrant vestige of the heyday of vintage soul and R&B. His 2006 album, *Kerosene*, recorded with the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, captures that timeless sound and infuses classic bustle-beaty grooves with a hint of country swagger and rock grit. **LEE FIELDS** & **THE EXPRESS** play a New Year's Eve bash at Atrium on Thursday, December 31. Local DJ **LEO CALDERON** opens.

SAT 12/10/04

Apres Ski (local) 5 p.m. free.
Turner Up (local) 5 p.m. free

barry/montpellier
SAULT/SLASH & BURENIA
CARD Josh Seaton 10 p.m.
cover fee

EMPIRE 68 BUREN Express
Open 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. 50
POUNCE (local) 10 p.m. free
WINDMILL BUREN/SLASH
(local) 10 p.m. 50

stone/savage
40 FREE

SLASH 10 p.m. 50
SLASH 10 p.m. 50

mad river valley/
amberbury

THE REVEREND RESTAURANT
8 TAP ROOM Anon Local
(local) 10 p.m. free

middlebury area
CITYVETS 10 p.m. 50
REVEREND RESTAURANT
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LIGHT CLUB LAMP SHOW Lamp
Show 10 p.m. 50
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Show 10 p.m. 50

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Karaoke 10 p.m. free
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FRI 10-11 PM

THE DEWENT PARCADE (BURLINGTON)
SHADE PARADE (rock, indie) 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

WINTERGARDEN COMEDY CLUB (MONTPELIER)
 Beethoven (comedy comedy) 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **JOE CANNADY** (comedy) (Montpelier) 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

JEN LOUNGE Extra Night with John Doe (Juno) 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

chittenden county

BLACKBERRY PUB (Montpelier) Happy Hour 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Karaoke with Jimmy Bird 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

JERICHO CAFE & TAPERY (Montpelier) Rhythmic Rock/Jazz/Blues 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

ON TAP BAR & GRILL (Montpelier) Rock & Indie 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. **Rock, Indie, Rock & the Week** (Montpelier) 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

HAIRSPRINGS PUB & GRILL (Montpelier) (Montpelier) 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

barre/montpelier

CRASHES-OT WORLD FAMOUS (Montpelier) Amy Adams & Doug Fanning (comedy) 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. **Live Music** 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

ESPRESSO HOUSE (Montpelier) (Montpelier) 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Karaoke with Jimmy Bird 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

THEIR HILLERS (Montpelier) Rock/Indie/Pop 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Karaoke with Jimmy Bird 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

WANDER BAR (Montpelier) Rock & Indie 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

stowe/middlebury area

CHICKADEE HOPVINTAGE TAPERY (Middlebury) (Middlebury) 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

middlebury area

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PHOTO BY JACOB GILBERT FOR THE VERMONT RECORD

8 p.m. to 11 p.m. **THEY LOUNGE** (Middlebury) 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

BURKE JAMME (Montpelier) (Montpelier) 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

WINTERGARDEN COMEDY CLUB (Montpelier) Beethoven (comedy comedy) 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **JOE CANNADY** (comedy) (Montpelier) 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

JEN LOUNGE Extra Night with John Doe (Juno) 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

THEIR HILLERS (Montpelier) Rock/Indie/Pop 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Karaoke with Jimmy Bird 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

WANDER BAR (Montpelier) Rock & Indie 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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The Voice You might know GILBERT GOTTFRID because of his distinctive — OIS, grating — voice. He was the duck in those old Alka-Seltzer commercials. He voiced Iggy, the parrot in Disney's *Aladdin*. He read from the erotic novel *50 Shades of Grey* in a video that became a YouTube sensation in 2012. But Gottfried is much more than a funny voice. He's an incredibly funny man. He's been one of America's most original and, at times, controversial standup comedians since the 1970s. Given his mischievous and fearless approach, he's a staple of the Private Club nights — go grab his riff on Donald Trump — and a true "comic's comic." On Friday and Saturday, January 8 and 9, Gottfried appears at the Vermont Comedy Club for a four-show run.

barre/montpelier

THEY LOUNGE (Montpelier) (Montpelier) 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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Critical Match

Visiting art professionals bring perspective to the local scene

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

As many Vermonters know, small is beautiful. Yet small can also be limiting—particularly for artists, whose career vitality often depends on reaching, and responding to, broader audiences. “How do we get people [to Vermont] to see the work that’s being made here?” asks Burlington City Arts curator DJ Hellerman in a recent conversation with *Seven Days*.

When he arrived at BCA in 2011, Hellerman identified a need for opportunities for artists to meet with external galleries and arts professionals. And so BCA’s Visiting Critic Program was born. One of the curator’s early shows at the BCA Center, “Ben’s Talent” in 2011, included work on loan from the Progressive Art Collection. (Hellerman had previously worked for the Cleveland insurance company.) Having brought Progressive curator and former colleague H. Scott Wootner to town for his BCA exhibit, Hellerman quickly recognized an opportunity to facilitate meetings between Wootner and local artists.

Hellerman refers to Wootner’s studio visits as a “quiet pilot” of the now-formalized series. The program aims to host three out-of-state art professionals per year, each giving a free public lecture and visiting several artist studios.

Artists who wish to participate are invited to submit work during an open call, and then both BCA and the visitor make their selections. Those who are chosen to meet with one critic are not eligible to meet with the one who visits immediately after, as they may otherwise appear as often as they like.

Most of BCA’s funding is allocated for the support of artists—as opposed to gallery owners, writers and the like—so, Hellerman says, the organization strives to maximize efficiency when introducing local artists to visiting critics. Fostering these relationships on a loan budget generally means multitasking.

Case in point: In winter 2014, BCA worked with Laura Merrin, director of New York’s biffance gallery, to host a solo show at BCA for new-media artist Ruffalo Schellie. Merrin then returned to Burlington as a visiting critic in August, shortly after Schellie’s show ended. In January 2015, the Fleming Museum of



Demolisher, *Demolisher* (new-media artist) by Diana Fleming

HE ASKED SOME REALLY GREAT QUESTIONS.

ANDY MEAKER

Art published the catalog *Survay Back On Picasso's Demolisher* (2014), which includes an essay by Merrin. Fleming director Jane Cohen confirms that this relationship came about through the Visiting Critic Program. “BCA has always been an incubator,” suggests Hellerman.

This year, the cycle of visits is far from included gallery. Helen Levy and independent curator Ole Whasek, the founder of Brussels-based Helen Levy Projects and a University of Vermont alumna, met in November with Vermont artists Steve Baskin, R. Elliott Katz, Abbey Meaker and Sarah O'Donnell, and Sorelle Tokin.

Whasek recently relocated to the Toronto area after spending years as an independent curator in southern Ontario, including work at the Ottawa Art Gallery. Her background is in contemporary art theory and anthropology. In Burlington last month, Whasek met with Katz, Loeel, Tony Lee Songstuen, Deb Swenson and Mary Zanetta.

Experiences with the visiting critic may differ, but participating artists uniformly express gratitude for the opportunity to see and be seen.

“Helen is a lot of an outcast in terms of the art world,” says Baskin. He maintains his studio practice while teaching art at UVM, and met with two other BCA visiting critics before seeing Levy this year. Of the program, he says, “It’s a good opportunity to meet with people that are doing this in different cities and have different perspectives—it adds to the discourse of what’s happening here.”

Katz, who recently installed two public art commissions in downtown Burlington, says his visit with Levy gave him two things: “positive feedback and outside experience with my colleagues.” Additionally, Katz suggests that a non-local critic can more easily offer honest feedback. Levy, he says, readily cranked aspects of the sculptor’s work that he thought were not working.

Meaker and O'Donnell met with Levy not about their individual work but about their ideas for a series of no-media installations called “Overnight Projects.” The critic, they say, helped them work out a game plan. “He asked some really great questions,” Meaker says. “He helped to look at the practical aspects.”

Songstuen showed Whasek a wide variety of her work, but says that “the most powerful part” of the visit was the

ART SHOWS



Nick Neddo

generations Vermeerian, prepping supplies is an art form *crucio* itself. Nefido begins his painting materials from nature, using Ghent, furs, berries, beavers, nuts, sticks and stones to render images of the landscape from which they came. On his website, Nefido describes his holistic approach to art production as "unbelievably satisfying on a profound and even instinctive level." Visitors can see the results of his labors at "Elements and Affixes" at the Joplin Public Library in Marshfield through January 31, whose copies of his book *The Organic Artist* are also available. Pictured: "Toby Cup and Sage Maple," made with sustainable ink and with a parchment of found cut-wooden, wild tawdry futher and soap engravings.

WORKING FROM BEHIND THE SCENES. Students at Josh Lurie's art class learn to work influenced by these art movements. Through December 31, call 800-8880. MTAA Studio is in Burlington.

children's cognitive

[illegible]

NEW VOLUMES (This type of new abstract subseries are indicated by the Roman numeral)

Through December 31, 1994, 100% of the 1994-1995 Firebird Cafe on Exotic 3 is owned.

FOCUS ON MIT MANFIELD: Exhibition of six local photographers' images of the Manfield Through December 31, 2010, 434 2553 1st, Manfield. Contact for Exhibition: info@chaseart.com

1489 Photos that speak to the role of water in human life selected by Gary Coonard. Through January 3, 10a-5p. 2008. Earlston Gallery in Essex, London.

LINDA DI SANTO "The Porters of Empire" reads in workbook, graphic and pen and ink by the Vermont artist. Through February 28. Info: 802.855.2626, www.vaweb.org

MILION ARTISTS BUILD Twenty artists share photographs that represent meaningful passages in their lives. Through February 5, info: hahdall.com/artists. **MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS**

PLAYERS: A group-mindset featuring work by Davey Allen, Eleanor Gilman, Elizabeth Allen, Arminia Roshanfar, Krista Polky, Lynn Ogilvy, Ravi Laxman, David Morris, Janet McKenzie, Virginia Hoffman, Sam Salzman, Sharon Shalensky, and Drs of the U.S. Academy of Management. Also: Pina Wong and Jan Wong. Through January 2012. 978-07656-0844-4. For a complete list of titles in the series, visit www.oup.com/9780765608444.

SHADES OF RED Followed by more than 20 licensed artists, including photographers on stage, stained glass and collage. Through December 31. Info: 608-282-9500. www.bowdoin.edu

YOGINS OF LAKE CHARLENAINE BEYOND
Local landscape painting by Carolyn Linton
Helen Nagel and Carl Benavise. Painted by Ash
Sakuma and Kelly Hall. and painting by Theron
Reed. Through December 30. 1000 North 6000
Avenue. Jones College. Medicine.

Learning Area contact time

ALMUTH PALINKAS AND JUANNE CARRUT:
*Intuitive: intuitive sculptures and hands in
 clay and woodcarve Through December 31 Info:*
 828. 2345. *Carver's Gallery in Madison*

ANY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DOWNS
The unit is now open to all members 18th year through
January 2. Info: ajg@wmae.org, wmae.org, City Center
Room 1100

CELEBRATE! A 12-year anniversary celebration of our hits featuring a wide variety of new hit and available DVD premieres. Through December 28, only at \$19.98. Studio Place Audio/Video.

CHARLES FERN (aka Rickard A. Surridge)^{*}
photographs taken at Vermont countryfairs,
through July 1 (aka 478 8578 Vermont history
Hugobon/Morris or

DISPENSE Friends and Stories' recent, belatedly written *Memories* series. Through January 6 (info: 301-433-3300). Central Vermont Medical Center in Rome has a book exchange, *Books for Everyone*, 2-3-2000-2001.

from Newbury artists including chef, sculptor, mixed media artist, poet and playing cards, mosaic making and wood carving etc. Through January 8, 10am-6pm, \$2950, Surrey Memorial Library at Newbury

JAMES HAN YUNTSANGEL, "Microphorum": new abstracts and paintings slated for November exhibit. Through December at Santa Cruz State Museum, Supreme Court Gallery in Mariposa or

HEBREW ARTS AND CRAFTS First annual HASC members and all other featuring market including jewelry, books, candles and more. Open to the public. Free admission. Through December 16. Info: 202-224-8444.

NICK HEDDIE: Elements and Affair* work made with wild-crafted art materials by the local artist and author. Through January 30 info: 426-3381.


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100

WOMEN OF MORMON TRANSLATORS AND DOBCHAGANOV Photographs, documents, uniforms, and objects illustrating the women who came first, from the first ladies of university presidents to the first women in the Corps of Cadets and on to other distinguished roles. Through December 31, 1994. 445-0712. Sullivan Museum & Historic Center, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.

ADDRESS/ADDRESS LINE

3000 LEROUX COLLECTION. Landscapes painted by 21 19th and 20th-century artists that reflect the impact of museum collections and artists. Made in and Many Styles. **3000.** Generalizations of 100 small-format, workshop-style paintings. Through 60 countries. 20. Info 044 3838. Bryan Marmorek Gallery, in Jeffersonville.

CLASH HONEY: Treasured Paintings, used abstract landscapes at all. Through January 28, info 253-1885. Green Mountain Fine Art Gallery in Green.

GABRIEL TEMPESTA, *The World Characteristic*, 5
 Cases. Eighty detailed paintings rendered from
 photos of the natural world. Through December 18
 only. 2023-2024. Located at World Science Gallery.

REVERENT PHOTOGRAPHY Images from 19 dedicated parks parks of the monthly photo group photo meeting. Through January 4 - 10th 2014. Photo Arts is in Memphis.

ROCKWATER SYSTEMS INC. (Rockwater.com) recently introduced the F-35 Carrier Air Wing fighter and the F-4 Phantom II. A fighter battles and is in the air. Many planes and rockets are continuously added through Groundwork 20. (Info: 224-9927) Please. Problem. Battle in Space.

road river valley/antechamber

BLAKE LARSON, *Illustrations* 1994-2004. Abstract, ripe, measured, and standard figure paintings. Through January 31, 2015, MCA-DEMO, The Hundy Modern Gallery, 100 West 20th St.

HOLIDAY GROUP EXHIBITIONS Vermont artists Jeanne Boyd Hoge, Suzanne Kato, Lillian Korman, Marilyn Bell, Doris Lynn Shenneth Marston, David Shamp and Sarah Lee Tipton exhibit works in a variety of mediums. Through January 30, 1994. 264-3523. *Art's Gallery & Pottery Studio, Rutland*

JOHN BIRRELL, "Bristled" will bring sculptures made with hand-hewn nails. www.birrell.com or 703/231-7270. He will have a one-day exhibition of the material through January 30. Info: 617/890-2333, Walter Corporation, a subsidiary of Bradford.

MARY HILL, New work by the local artist. Through
 December 30. Info: 438-5474. *Bye-bye Mary-Lynn Cole*
 is on display.



'Go for Broke'

'Go for Broke' Money, addiction and the desires of both are at the heart of the two-part exhibit at Burlington's SPA C.E. Gallery. Because Poberdy's collages address advertising with their recomposition of found imagery, gallery owner Christy Mitchell's mixed-media works are more pointed. An after-the-installation is a monument to both excess and the hope for more, among the evidence are strips of discarded luxury scratch-off, which Mitchell also used as the basis of eight prints depicting "Money! Money! Money!" The gallery has recently added a new talk, Ruben Amaro, so you can get your caffeine and art fix at the same time. Through January 18. *Reviewed: "For So Little" by Poberdy*

workoff/offsetting account

ALTERNATIVE CAMERAS / FIBERGLASS TO PLASTIC
Cameras have become more and more sophisticated. However, some photographers prefer to make their own specialized cameras, producing objects that are direct and often quite surreal. Through January 15, 1984, 894-6900, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS! Artworks and crafts by more than 40 artists working in wood, metal, ceramics and glass. Hundreds of items, priced under \$50. Through December 31. **CERAMICS: DECORATIVE IS FUNCTIONAL.** Work by Harold, Robert, Judith, Frank, Louise and Ellen Friedman and Gene Martz is. Through February 25. Info: 875-3835. Creative Space Gallery at Woodstock.

FROM FARM TO PLANT Art, craft and photography by 22 local artists celebrating seasonal agriculture. Through December 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater is photography.

ONE BEDROOM AND HANNAH TELEPHONE
Car Jung: landscape and two life paintings.
by the artist at 121. Through November 21
info: 455-0852; Dogma Art Gallery 1011 Street, in
Midtown

HIBEL TRAINS Annual three-level model train show, featuring a backdrop of the Green Mountains, painted by local artist Gail Stalder. Through January 9. **WARREN EMBLE**, 440 American Fork. An historic demonstration

was by the internationally known Swedish artist along with works from his own collection. Through December 30, 1995, 2007, the Sheldon Museum of Natural History is featuring

POURTRAIT D'UN FORÊTIER: HENRI AND MAZEHNE
Contemporary artists Henri Mazehne and photo-journalist George Gekkerow present a visual diary of a forest and its logging industry through January 9 to Feb. 20/10/10 Vermont Forest Center in Montpelier.

cutland area

THE ART OF GIVING - THE GIVING OF ART:
All artworks can drop into a collection of handcrafted one-of-a-kind flowers, jewelry and other gifts. Through January 9, info 203-429-5500. Connans, Hanes, and Iris Center for Science.

ROY NESTORON (*Popcorn Works*) photographs evoking painterly abstraction that is more deconstructed, perhaps, as pop art, a sign object and cultural phenomena found in Europe. One in *Amsterdam* and *Paris* (Riverside). The south January 16, 1995, 1995. Can't have *Gauguin's* *Yellow* (1995).

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2015 at the Movies

The good, the bad and whatever the hell *Tomorrowland* was

BY MARCOT HARRISON AND RICK KISNOAK



RICK KISNOAK: Hollywood is a pretty happy place right now, and the reason has nothing to do with holiday cheer. Rather, it has to do with sequels, remakes and reboots. And, more than anything else, with franchises. Largely on the basis of their gross, 2015's box office has already surpassed last year's by 4 to 5 percent, according to Box Office Mojo. Which is real money when you're talking billions.

Those figures came from early December, with a highly anticipated new chapter of *Star Wars* and the vast majority of awards contenders yet to hit the complex. When the dust clears and the big-bill drops on New Year's Eve, movie industry history may have been made.

I find this both fascinating and a little sad. I'm old enough to remember when people complained about sequels and anything that smacked of studio corner-cutting and profit gouging. I suspect today's industry heads can't believe their luck. These changes and with them, audience preferences. For whatever reason, the current generation of moviegoers seems happy with Hollywood's business plan.

Get this: Last month, AMBL Pictures announced it would remake the Christopher Nolan's 2000 breakout thriller *Insomnia*, and eyebrows were virtually raised at studio head Michael Bay's actuality and on a press release, "We intend to deliver a memorable movie," and the *Twister* remake didn't go into overwork.

Rather, viewers love up and she lost for sequels such as *Jurassic World* (the year's No. 1 release at press time) and *Jurassic 7* (No. 4), remakes like *Polegost* and *Pont Break*, and the more-ending Marvel Universe franchises. The comic-book movie, with its endless series of character combinations, has become a multi-billion dollar industry unto itself. Marvel has announced releases scheduled through November 2020.

Franchises are the future. One of these days, you and I could find ourselves writing a year-in-review piece composed of nothing but, "Have you had this nightmare yet?"

MARGOT HARRISON: Not yet, perhaps because there's one thing I like about franchises: They're long-form storytelling, and they force studios to cultivate strong memories for complex narratives. I just wish those narratives didn't center so much on making of CGI buildings.

I'd just repeat what I say every year: Original, intelligent movies exist. If you want to see them anywhere but video on demand, leave your living room. Patronize your local art house or film series, and then give the manager or organizer a list of other movies you'd love to see there. We have it in our power to prevent theaters from becoming the exclusive domain of 3D blockbusters. And I know plenty of young folks who believe in that goal.



Most Stellar Performance

RR: I got a charge out of the range-lord Pitt displayed in the two roles he played this year — an alcoholic writer in *12th* and the *Sea* and a financial wreck in *The Big Short*. I felt like you about the same moment in *The Ray of Light* when Tim Roth channels Christoph Waltz. Michael Fassbender was great as Steve Jobs, as was Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Revenant*. But I've got to go with the top team of Paul Dano and John Cusack, who between them produced a hauntingly perfect portrait of Brian Wilson in *Love & Mercy*. This was one time a split personality was a good thing.

MH: For me, this was the year that produced a wealth of amazing female performances, from Rooney Mara and Carey Mulligan in *Carol* to Saoirse Ronan in *Brooklyn* to Nina Hoss in *Phantom* to Kelly Blain in *Acacia*. But my favorite is

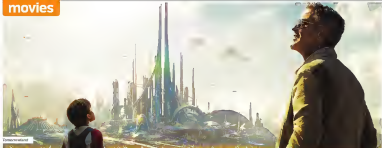
Rene Russo's portrayal of the alternately tender, angry and desperate young mother in *Room*.

Most Annoying Performance

RR: Diane Kruger (*Love & Mercy*), Saoirse Ronan (*The Guernsey*) and Tyl, voiced by Seth MacFarlane (*Twisted*), spring to mind. But really, nothing was quite as annoyingly awful as Denzel Washington's over-the-top Nana in M. Night Shyamalan's latest dud, *The Visit*.

CAN'T A NOT-SPECIAL BOY OR GIRL SAVE THE WORLD FOR ONCE?

MH: I like it that Copley in *Distress*. But so the whiny voice of the cliché kid brother, Chappie, he made me want to flip a switch, undermining the film's message.



2015 at the Movies

Best New Name to Watch in Front of the Camera

RIK Room wasn't Jacob Tremblay's first movie performance, but it's the 9-year-old's breakout. The young Canadian is ridiculously convincing as the role of a boy who's spent his entire life locked with his mother in a small space. The grant of a mother and mother-to-be Tremblay handles would have been a crazy proposition for an actor many times his age. Scary film. Scary good acting for a kid who hasn't even turned 10.

MH Scandal casting-of-age movies are a dime a dozen, but Del Powley brings a new kind of honesty and verve to *The Diary of a Teenage Girl*. Neither a wallflower nor a Lolita, her Minnie is hungry for life, charismatic and definitely herself. I hope we see this British actress more often.

Best New Name to Watch Behind the Camera

RIK OK, Lauren Anderson is not exactly a new name: she's been one of the most prominent names in performance art since the '70s. What she's new is to feature filmmaking, and her debut, *Heart of a Dog*, has been winning awards and blowing minds since its premiere at the Telluride Film Festival in September. It's even been short-listed for an Oscar. The experimental documentary/drama/essay film is a one-of-a-kind rumination on everything from the death of Anderson's husband, Lou Reed, and her past rat terms (Lafayette, la nature of memory and life in a post-9/11 world) to her own. As you might imagine, the soundtrack's not too shabby, either.

MH Based. Robert Marshall, writer-director of *The Myth of the American Sleepover* (2005) and *It Follows*, one of my favorite movies of 2014. Though one of these films is obviously a coming-of-age drama and the other is horror, they're more alike than you'd think — both moody, haunting and indelible.

Most Inexplicable Hit

RIK It's unclear on how *Taken 2* (Nov. 26) made the list of the year's 10 top-grossing films, according to Box Office Mojo. And I've got to admit, the appeal of *Person 7* (Nov. 4) eluded me. Who expects it'd be one day live in a world

where Vin Diesel is one face of a global multibillion-dollar franchise? But the movie whose success surprised me the most was *Jurassic World*. Sure, it was a couple hours of CGI monster fun. But the fourth in the *Jurassic Park* series *World* whole chunks of it from the first, the story line was essentially the same and the ending was a done-deal rip-off. How that translated into more than a billion and a half dollars worldwide is beyond me.

MH I guess I can understand why *Men in Stars* at No. 5. Kids love those little cheery yellow guys, and I bet they make good Facebook emoticons or something. But *San Andreas* (Nov. 13), a disaster movie without a single original idea, really shouldn't be occupying the spot above *Mad Max*.

Most Inexplicable Flop

RIK Given that it was made by Paolo Sorrentino, whose *The Great Beauty* took the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar last year, I'm surprised there's been so little love for South. Michael Fassbender and Harvey Keitel are just as old, but not looking back on their lives. It's got one of the year's best scripts, a gorgeous shot in the Alps and has a soundtrack by Italian Prize-winning composer David Lang. No. 240 on a Box Office Mojo's 2015 list — come on!

MH *World* hasn't had a chance yet. It's only been in limited release for three weeks now (at press time). But *Guillermo del Toro's Crimson Peak* was a bona fide cinematic flop at No. 73. I wouldn't recommend the movie to anyone for its story, but oh, what a gorgeous, over-the-top, gothic experience it is. The costumes alone, if you like that sort of thing, are worth the rental price, and Jessica Chastain wears them while consuming whole roomfuls of scenery.

**THE FILM TELLS A SAD BUT TRUE STORY
THAT NO ONE WHO SEES IT WILL EVER FORGET.**

Freshest, Most Creative Screenplay

RIK *Easy A* (screenplay by Elizabeth Karren). It's not-must-see animation, graphic sex and a motivational speaker undergoing an existential crisis. Need I say more?



MH The screenplay for *Inside Out* was clever and moving enough to charm both kids and their parents. I loved the comic accuracy with which *The Big Short* read up dull-on-the-financial-crisis story. And *Mr. March*'s twisty script helped revive brainy science fiction.

Most Formulaic, Cliché-Infested Screenplay

RIK Back in July, I wrote, "OK, it's official: Worst Movie of the Year... it's simply inconceivable that a studio will release a more derivative, wider, empty-crushed or cynically conceived piece of cinematic nonsense than *The Giver*." Turns out I actually ended up loving something worse. But this one had: Tinseltown-head. Highest cliché count of the year.

MH Open a letter to Aaron Sorkin. Please stop writing movies that preach to us about how rich a response we really put want to be loved. I know this is an unpopular opinion, but very little of the dialogue in *Steve Jobs* rang true to me as a situation that could be uttered by human beings in the situations depicted. (Yes, *Steve Jobs* is way less formulaic than, say, *Pollyanna* of *Grey*. But we expect a lot more than that from a Sorkin script, or at least we used to.)

Best Movie With No Movie Stars

RIK *Room* (No. 10), no contest, if it hadn't featured



The Look of Silence

and a bunch of other fine actors were simply wasted in underwritten roles. None of them came out looking good.

Whom We'd Like to See More of at the Movies

KE I want to cringe about *Grandma* as a lot of critics went, but it did remind me that the movie could use a lot more Lily Tomlin.

MI I agree! Also, the *Strong* daughters. This year, Maura Tierney was an intensely regal, old person alongside her mom in the uneven *Rich and the Flash*, making me want to see her in a lead role.

Whom We'd Like to See Less of at the Movies

KE I like to keep dumping on Diane Kruger, but my God. Has there been another actress who's so blatantly treated a significant film legacy? From *Anne Hathaway*, *The Godfather* and *Rebels to Ransom*, I find *So, And So It Goes* and *The Sky Walking*. If she's going to be such consistently checkable anti-comping, I'd rather not have her around.

MI "Classen one" characters — a trend that reached its nadir with the cynical revision of *Peter Pan* into the lead, posing ring, unengaged Pan. Most everyone, be Harry Potter or Luke Skywalker? Can't a mid special boy or girl save the world for once?

Best Documentary

KE This was a phenomenal year for docu-movies. How often do you see films as fabulous as *The Look of Silence*, *Listen to My Mother*, *Heart of a Dog*, *Giving Blood*, *Science and the Prison of Belief* and *Best of Enemies* all released in the same 12 months? Not to mention that Michael Moore is back (*Where's Jesse Now?*). Even in a field this extraordinary, however, *Any Good?*

MI *The Look of Silence* is an essential sequel to *The Act of Killing* — together they give a fuller picture of a place where atrocities are neither disavowed by the perpetrators nor forgiven by the survivors. It's also truer than any fiction thriller.

Most Disposable Movie Franchise

KE "I'd love to do something with *Peter Dinklage*!" again, and if it is a *Taken 4* scenario... great. I'm not sure "great" is the word I'd use, but that's *Laura Neeman's*

official position on the prospect of yet another *Taken* sequel. Bryan Mills, if you want to rescue someone, save us from more of this increasingly inept series.

MI As a horror fan, I beg for the end of the *Deadland* and *Paranormal Activity* series. They started with panic, but the series are long gone, and they lack the camp appeal that helped render *Freddy, Jason and Michael* Myers undying.

Worst Picture

KE Love the *Coopers* wasn't just the year's laziest comedy; it was the laziest movie, period. Technically, I gave *The Exorcist* an even worse review, but the pope just made Michael Verres a saint, and I don't want to go to hell.

MI The MTV time-travel found-footage movie *Project Almanac*, which came across as a 30-year-old's attempt to mash up *Back to the Future* with *Primer* after sleeping through most of both. And *Take the Road-Home* *Series*.

Best Picture

KE *Splinter* is one of the great newspaper movies of all time, a film on par with *All the President's Men*. In this auspicious awards season from director Tom McCarthy, Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, John Slattery, Lucy Schreier and Stanley Tucci do some of the most impressive work of their careers. Michael Keaton is as good as he's looking at the possibility of back-to-back Oscar nominations. Finally, the film tells a sad but true story that no one who uses it will ever forget.

MI My favorite of this year are films in the spirit of *not* — highly stylized, dream-soaked tales of the destruction that can result from the workings of complex systems that are run at the core. In *The Big Short*, it's the American financial system, and the film's "heroes" are actually scoundrels who had a way to profit from the collapse. In *Swerve*, it's the drug war, and Emily Blunt is the heroine whose ideals are no match for reality. *Roger Deakins'* opus cine-matography goes the latter the edge for me. But both movies strike a exactly the right balance of movie procedural detail and cinematic flair. They're epic for postmodern. **B**



The Look of Silence

one familiar face — that of John Turturro. So I guess I'll go with *Heart of a Dog*.

MI *Tangerine*, a dynamic indie LA indie with two trans actresses in the lead roles. It's a comedy (sometimes) about a Christmas Eve revenge mission.

Worst Movie With an All-Star Cast

KE What the hell was *Tomorrowland*? If you make the latest from Brad Bird wasn't so much a movie as two hours-plus of product placement. The movie of Disney to sell artifacts to an ad for a theme-park attraction to which it wants to sell as tickets. That's not saying Pixar's corporate greed. Even George Clooney couldn't save this one.

MI *Benjamin Button* tried to stretch her reigns with *Our Brand Is Crisis*, while Billy Bob Thornton played to type,

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Capricorn

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in his 1991 *The Matriarch at Windward*, poet Gary Soto says that whittling is "probably written as, carved as, a heart-shaped seed meaning the first seed that makes it again." The text that sits in this heart-shaped seed is a message about the vital stuff inside the still water: raising your raft so able to break out and start growing without the help of a nucleus. A fire or flood? They might do the job, but it's proper. Epiphany that in 2008 you find an equally vigorous but less disruptive path to literary selfhood. www.garysoto.com

that facilitated your ability to get the space environment you deserve. Put you up for the first challenge? The space for things feelings, the one basically aggressive in handling your personal yearnings. Use your imagination to choose up raw approaches to getting what you want. The revolution is in many that you will use in the coming months will keep bringing you with and increases the sense in your

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In ancient times observers of the sky knew the difference between stars and planets. The stars remained fixed in their places. The planets wandered around, always making positions in relation ship to the stars. But now and then it crops up an interest in a very bright star would suddenly materialize out of nowhere, stay in the same place for a while and then disappear. Chinese astrologers called these "guest stars." We refer to them as supernovae. They are previously quiet or invisible stars that explode, releasing tremendous energy for a short time. It is up to you in J2016, you may experience the re-appearance and disappearance of a guest star. Learn it, you can turn it. It's possible feelings and messages that could send you far beyond

CANCER | June 21-July 22: Be alert for an abundance of interesting lessons in a variety of ways you will be offered teachings about a 20th-century of practical solutions including how to take care of yourself really well how to live the life you want to live and how to build the connections that serve your dreams. If you are even modestly responsive to the prompts and nudges that come your way you will become smarter over time than you are possible. So just imagine how savvy you'll be if you seriously embrace your education on participants. Please note that some of these opportunities may be available as recordings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The afternoon grows hot. Once it reaches 70° it settles steadily to these levels. By the time it spins its coconuts to 100° it's heavier than it was in the beginning. On the other hand a moderate 60° feel tell suggests a calm, moist late 20 years in the breeze, a more stable area. It's in the future.

From what I can tell, Les' 2020s are more like a silverware year for you as Les' 2020 will more closely resemble a silverware. Keep in mind that while the silverware phase is different from your silverware time, it's just as important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) "The shy artist" writes Vega teacher and poet Joel Charney. The word artist has the most of a short call me. The street groups call me. The dance at the fountain calls me. Smiles call me. Tears call me. A talent melody calls me. The most reason and one call me. Daytime is searching for a pleasure. Everyone is calling me. Come come? In 2000 Vega I suspect you will have a lot of firsthand experience with feelings like these. Sometimes like a suddenness may overwhelm you awakening confused desires to go anywhere and do everything. On other occasions you will be enchanted by the lush liveliness and with those excite them to respond and react.

LIBRA (page 103 of 107) in the 19th century, horses were a primary mode of personal transport. Libra's former police told them a historical encyclopaedia containing that sort of failed list is often far larger a problem emerged. The resulting machine isn't better on the inside. It became an ever-learning challenge to clear away the foggy "politics." In 1894 a British newspaper predicted that the streets of London would be covered with one side of the staff by 1925. But then something unexpected happened: cars. Gradually the threat of an environmental apocalypse worsened. I present this story as no excuse, at what I expect for you in 2016, a growing awareness that will probably disappear because of the new set of historic you contribute.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) The longest river in the world flows through eastern Africa—the Nile. It originates below the equator and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Although the current flows north, its prevailing winds blow south. That's why sailors have found it nearly impossible for thousands of years. They sail either against the flow of the water or use sails to harness the power of the breeze. Ironically,

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) In many cases, steel isn't half as useful as its less hard, more pliable cousin, aluminum. And that's how it is with Sagittarius. When you're in a bit of a pinch, which is called tempering, rulers, the steel springs and the most valuable. Or parts, for example, can be made to fit. If they weren't, they'd break too easily. Write you to "steel tempering" in one of your more metaphors in 2006. Sagittarius, you're going to be strong and vigorous, and those qualities will serve you best if you keep them flexible. Do you know the novel "Steel is a Gentleman"? It's a good one. Read it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) frequents the Great New King of Prussia between 1940 and 1968. He was also an Aquarius who sometimes experimented with a centric side. When he found his coffee, for example, he used Chaperone instead of water. Since the food chain was ready to drink, he raised in a dish of powdered mustard in light of the astrologer's claim. It's up to him that Frederic's side band might be in an apogee for year life in 2020. A vigorous and complex synthesis of Chaperone, talismans and realized. [13] Frederic insisted that "Chaperone" could be added to the list.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) My Master's acquaintance Award pays the price as well as anyone I've found. He tells me that he can produce 150 different sounds from my singing key. Using the foot pedals (accusars) for some of the woodwinds. How he teaches a key is an even more important factor. It can be perfect or he thinks it's about as good. Being and they're other inside. I develop you to achieve a more approach to your uniqueness in 2018. Expand and design your ability to draw out the best in others. Learn how to be even more expressive with the success you already possess.

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WINE WISDOM WOMAN WISEWOMAN

Dance, beauty or playing tennis. You supported a friend who knew my mind and I was spontaneously excited by others who left to go somewhere to go and enjoy something today. You can let your hair down, immerse your hair in your hair, but I'm in a room on the floor. Sober or this, let's not make something. When: Friday, November 11, 2011. Where: Weinberg, New Woman, Mo. 011210

AFTERNOON AT THE WATERFORD DOG PARK

Two, with your partner/friend and one with the water. I'd say, go to the water. I'm in a room on the floor. Sober or this, let's not make something. When: Friday, November 11, 2011. Where: Weinberg, New Woman, Mo. 011210

WINE WISDOM WOMAN WISEWOMAN

The women in the background are smiling. You were in a room on the floor. Sober or this, let's not make something. When: Friday, November 11, 2011. Where: Weinberg, New Woman, Mo. 011210

FOURTH GRADE

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PLANE RIDE WITH A BOSS

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REHEARSAL AT CITY MARKET SAT

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SATURDAY NEW BOY GIRL

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HARVEST MARKET STONE

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STAYIN A RIDE

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HIGHLIGHTS FIRST OFFICE, THURSDAY

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HUNDRETH COOP RED MORNING

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DECEMBER

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AND YOU A RIDE

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WED AT NO 3

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UPPER DOOR PAID NEW WOMAN

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BI-CYCLE EXHIBITION

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8 MAIL PICKED UP

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WOMEN ARE PLAYERS

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CODING WING GIVE

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GURNEY KNOWN BEST

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CURRICULUM VITAE FINE ST

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RED ADULT TV

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WOMEN KNOWING CURT LINDSAY'S BROTHER

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YOU KNOW EVERYONE KNOWS

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ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

11.12.11 11:07 AM

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY


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